Understanding Essentials for Waterproofing Your Basement by Callum

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Burst or leaking pipes, excessive rain, foundational leaks and cracks in concrete among many other things might be the culprits behind your damp or out right flooded basements. You may be tempted to think that it is not that big of a deal to have a wet basement if you do not use it anyway. The truth is however, whether you have use for it or not, you need to fix your wet basement.

Three reasons why you should do so

Â· First, a wet basement significantly lowers your house's value in the real estate. You might have an up hill task being able to put it up on the market given its obvious drainage issues, and even if you are successful somehow, you will have a bigger problem trying to convince anyone to buy the house.

Â· Water can also cause structural weakness to your house if not dealt with for a long time. It causes the walls of your basements to be compromised and if it affects your foundation then you really have a problem. Fixing a water problem in your basement is not an option, it is necessary.

Â· You may be aware that where there is moisture there is mould. Your damp basement will almost certainly harbor mold. This poses a serious health risk to you and your family, especially if you have small children or aged people or people with breathing problems like Asthma living in your home. Bear in mind also that bugs and insects will find your damp, dark basements to be a perfect home.

How to waterproof a basement

Depending on the source and amount of water in your basement, waterproofing it can be a do-it-yourself job or something that you need to call the experts in on.

Do it yourself solutions include carrying out a visual inspection to determine where the water is coming from. If the water source is a small isolated spot, then you can block the water source to prevent water re-entry. Other things you can do are check to see whether the gutters are free from any obstruction. Blocked gutters cause rainwater to overflow and pour down near your basement and might be the cause of your wet basement. Clean out your gutters to prevent this.

Another thing that could work is to level the ground, making sure that not too much earth is piled against your concrete foundation such that water seeps in through the wood. There should be a clearance of about 8 inches between the ground and top of your foundation wall.

Some wet basement waterproofing problems might require professional solutions however. A basement-waterproofing contractor may install a sump pump to help pump water out of your basement. They may also choose to install a French drain in the exterior of your house to prevent water from entering your basement or in the interior to divert it back once it comes in. If the crawl space underneath your home is retaining moisture, the contractor may install a vapor barrier to prevent the moisture from seeping into your basement. They may use any or all of these methods depending on the situation.

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