

## SINKHOLE WARNING SIGNS

Dramatic sinkhole events that gobble cars in parking lots and open huge cracks in the ground make for vivid news footage, but they are a rarity and **NOT the norm**. In most cases, sinkholes operate on a much smaller and slower scale. Frequently, they announce themselves with warning signs of instability below the ground – on your property or nearby. The **right solution**, executed in time, can restore stability and preserve the value of your home.

**Your best protection against sinkholes is awareness.** Know the signs and be prepared to act if you suspect a problem. The usual chain of events is as follows:

- (1) homeowner notifies insurance provider of suspected sinkhole activity;
- (2) insurer sends a geotechnical expert to inspect property, prepare report and if necessary, suggest a remediation plan of action;
- (3) homeowner selects a remediation firm to carry out the plan of action.

**We're here to support you at any part of the process, including consulting on remediation options.** Whether you have a remediation plan in hand or just have general questions about sinkholes or repairing sinkholes, feel free to **call the CFI remediation experts at 800-329-3889**.



### HOME INTERIOR:

- New cracks in walls or floors
- Doors and windows that no longer open and close properly

### HOME EXTERIOR:

- Stair-step-shaped cracks on exterior walls
- Newly exposed glimpses of foundation
- Cracking or buckling of the concrete slab



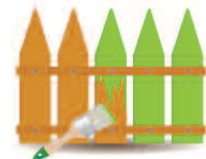
### IN THE YARD:

- Trees that slump or tilt
- Sagging or leaning fence posts
- Small, circular patches of wilting vegetation
- Small, post-rainstorm ponds that have not appeared in the past
- Depressions or cracks in the ground
- Well water contaminated with mud, dirt and/or debris

- Chimney-shaped tunnels in the ground that drop directly to the aquifer. These sinkhole “chimneys” can pose a serious risk factor. Fence and notify your county emergency management coordinator immediately.

### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

- Be on guard if other homes in your neighborhood are tested for sinkhole activity or if sinkhole activity is confirmed in a neighborhood nearby. Since sinkholes seem to run on a fault line, pay attention to problems on streets that lie behind of and in front of your house, as well as those to either side.



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