

Bowing Basement Wall Warning Signs

Icy Reno Waterproofing - Toronto Homeowner Guide

Check your basement wall this weekend

- 1 Look for a horizontal crack mid-height**
Often follows a block mortar joint straight across. The classic bowing sign.
- 2 Set a level against the wall**
A gap in the middle means the wall is curving inward.
- 3 Check corners for stair-step cracks**
Diagonal cracks through the mortar joints.
- 4 Test doors and windows for sticking**
Frames shifting out of square signal movement.
- 5 Note efflorescence or damp along cracks**
White stains mean water is getting through.
- 6 Mark and date the end of any crack**
Re-check in a month to see if it is actively moving.
- 7 Grade soil and extend downspouts away from the wall**
Keeping water away is the cheapest prevention.