

# Structural Issues

## 1 Cracks or Bulges on the Walls & Ceiling

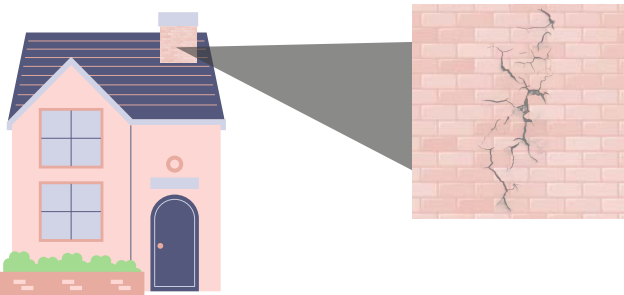
Not every crack in your home's walls or ceiling is cause for concern, it's important to keep an eye on them over time. As time passes some small cracks may develop into a problem, look out for:

- Large cracks and a sagging ceiling
- Cracks above doorways in a step pattern



## 2 Cracks in Chimney

If you notice cracks in the mortar, bricks or stone of your chimney it may be a sign that your home is shifting and putting additional strain on that area of your home, signaling the possibility of a larger structural issue.



## 3 Soil Pulling Away from House Walls

Soil will naturally expand and shrink due to weather and the time of year. However, if you notice that soil is significantly pulling away from your home, it can be a sign that there is structural issue with your home.

## 4 Uneven Gaps on Windows & Doors

Walls that have windows or doors are more vulnerable to pressure because holes have been cut in them. In many cases, areas around windows and doors show the signs of structural issues before any other place in your home.

- Uneven gaps around doors
- Doors and windows won't open or close smoothly
- Doors and windows won't lock properly
- Doors and windows are separating from the wall
- Doors won't stay closed

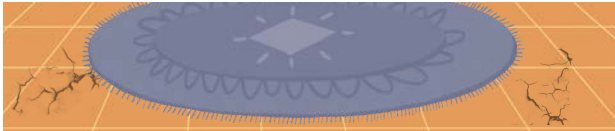


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## Sagging, Slopping or Cracking of Floors

Any shifts in your home's foundation will be clear when you inspect your home's floors. The more movement in your home's foundation, the more likely that your floors will show signs of sagging, slopping, or cracking.



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## Sagging Roof & Roof Leaks

There is no reason that your home's roof would be sagging or leaking, if the roof was installed properly and has not reached the end of its' life cycle. Instead this may signal that there is an issue with the roof structure. Common ways your home's roof structure could be damaged include:

- Timber frame movement
- Weather-related damage
- Poor roof maintenance
- Removal of load-bearing walls
- Termite damage
- Incorrect sizing of framing timbers



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## Damp Subfloor

This often indicates insufficient ventilation in the floors of your home. If the dampness is not addressed it can lead to rotting floor timbers, which can be spotted by surface stains and signs of deterioration.

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## Crumbling Concrete, Brick or Other Masonry

Although relatively uncommon, in some cases if masonry components of your home come in contact with high moisture or chemicals it may start to erode over time. This type of erosion is most often seen in lower areas of your home's masonry components, which are below the waterproofed parts of your home.

