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NEWSLETTER



FRENCH DRAINS

I always wondered why they're called French drains. Why aren't they called Italian drains or Spanish drains? I checked it out; according to Google it's because a guy named Henry French invented them. But I digress!

Basically, French drains are way too direct water to a planned location so that it's not a nuisance. For example, drainpipes can be connected to roof gutters/downspouts enabling the water to be directed to a dry well or down a hill.

French drains can also deal with water in a basement. Trenches are dug around the perimeter of the foundation wall and pipes are installed to drain foundation water to a sump pump which collects and then pumps the water to a harmless location. After the trenches are dug and the pipe is installed, new concrete is applied over the piping to match the rest of the floor. Often, there is a slight opening between the new concrete and the foundation wall to enable water to drain off the foundation wall into the pipes.



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French drains do work! They can make a wet basement dry and solve the water problem on a long-term basis. But they only work if they have electrical power. And when do you need a French drain, mostly? During a storm, and when does the power go out? During a storm. So, battery backup systems are a great idea, as is a generator.

Pricing goes by the linear foot. Figure about \$60 to \$70 dollars per linear foot. So, if you have a basement 50' x 30' it calculates to about \$10,000.

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