



Installing Foundation
Support Systems

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Max Knudsen, Business Editor
Deseret News
PO Box 1257
Salt Lake City, UT 84110



Here's the Dirt I've Dug Up About Utah Soils

Dear Max,

You might be interested in the following *dirty*, somewhat *unsettling*, little story...

I've attached a bag of Utah soil to the top of this letter. Why? Because Utah consumers need to be made aware of the *dangers they face when building on unstable, expansive and/or collapsible soils*. When a home or business is built upon unstable soils, it can sink — leading to costly repairs.

Consider the following:

- The **explosive growth in Utah** means many of the prime locations for building are now taken. Much of the new construction is being built on the mountainsides (foothills) and marsh-like areas that feature high water tables (river and lake bottoms). These are two of the locations most likely to lead to settlement problems, which typically cause the building to suffer minor to severe foundation settlement problems.
- According to an article in Civil Engineering magazine, **poor soils cause at least \$1 billion annually in damage to U.S. homes, more than the combined residential damage from floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and tornados**. Total yearly damage to all kinds of built facilities may exceed \$9 billion.
- **Soils tests** by a geotechnical engineer firm will reveal whether a piece of property may experience settling problems. However, city ordinances requiring soils tests are either non-existent in most small Utah cities or not enforced. This leaves Utah home owners and some business owners unprotected and at great risk to be hit with the unexpected high cost of foundation settlement repair due to expansive or collapsible soils. I can refer you to specific cases in the Salt Lake City area.
- **Case-in-point:** Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone's million-dollar home above the avenues in Salt Lake City has experienced severe settling problems. Even though a soils test was done and 18 feet of soil was replace with compacted fills, the home *still* settled. The reason for this is tied up in legal issues

Over, please...

currently, but water getting underneath the home and hitting the compacted fill is suspected of causing the home to settle.

- Atlas Piers, a foundation settlement repair company, has produced a **free consumer awareness brochure** (enclosed) outlining the steps a person can take in determining whether a property or existing home may experience foundation settlement problems. Plus, their service offers a permanent, economical way to stabilize foundations in new and existing buildings.

Enclosed is a press release as well as a copy of a free consumer awareness brochure your readers can request. Also enclosed is addition information about foundation settlement repair. It might be beneficial to also interview city government officials regarding whether they have city ordinances requiring soils testing, and if so, what they're doing to make sure the soils test recommendations are followed by developers and contractors.

If you'd like more information or have any questions, please call me at 801-568-1545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Pizzino

P.S. – I can help you secure any exclusive photos you would like, such a residents and/or business owners in your area who have **personally** dealt with foundation settlement problems.