

Foundation Crack Checklist - The 1/4-Inch Rule

Heartland Foundation Repair of Kansas City | (913) 270-0250 | heartlandfr.com

Tools: flashlight, credit card (1/32 in), dime (1/16 in), pencil (1/4 in), tape measure, phone for photos, marble or golf ball. Takes about 20 minutes.

The Rule

Credit-card thin (1/32 in): watch it. Dime wide (1/16 in): monitor.

1/8 to 1/4 in: photograph + re-measure in 60 days. Pencil wide (1/4 in): CALL NOW.

Any horizontal crack, at any width: CALL NOW. Floor slope > 1/2 in over 20 ft: defect line.

8-Step Walkthrough

1. Grab your tools (above).
2. Check basement walls and corners. Try card, then dime, then pencil. Note widest that fits.
3. Flag any horizontal or stair-step crack -> call-now list, no matter how thin.
4. Walk the outside perimeter. Check foundation, brick, mortar. Ground should slope away.
5. Test every door and window. Mark any that stick, won't latch, or sit out of square.
6. Roll a ball for floor slope. Mark rooms where it rolls fast and steady.
7. Measure, photograph, and date the worst ones. Put a coin in the photo for scale.
8. Sort each finding: watch, photograph, or call.

Found something on the 'call now' list?

Free inspection, written estimate the same day. Call (913) 270-0250 or visit heartlandfr.com/contact.