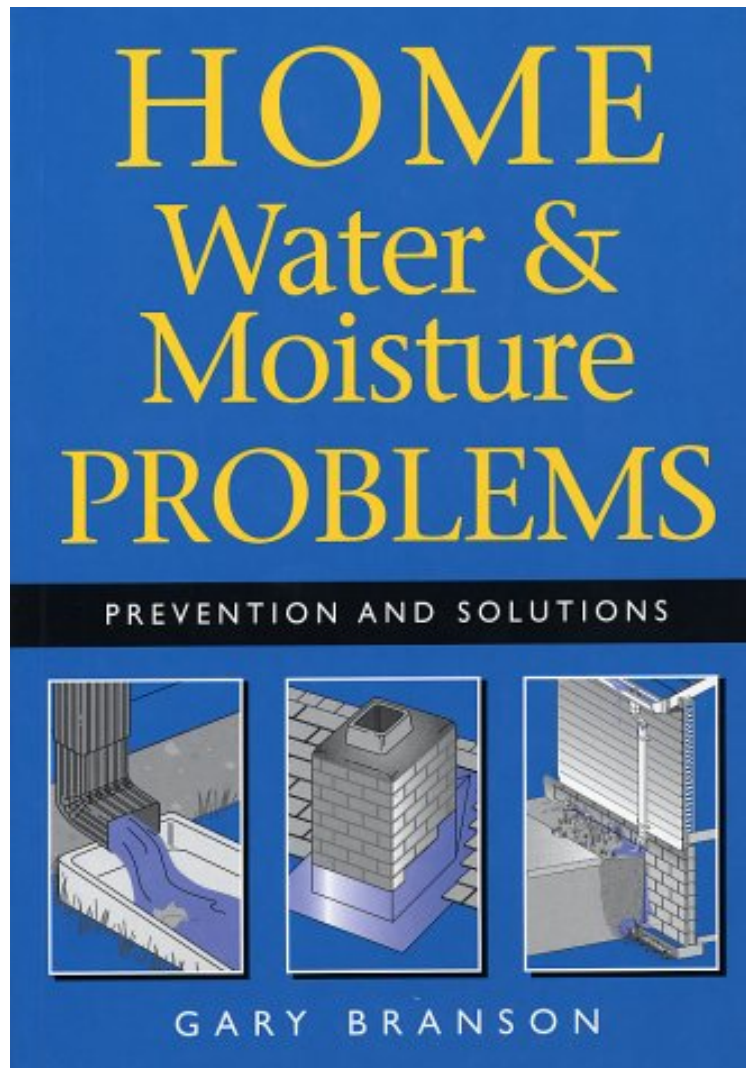


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Home Water and Moisture Problems: Prevention and Solutions

Gary Branson

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Gary Branson : Home Water and Moisture Problems: Prevention and Solutions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Home Water and Moisture Problems: Prevention and Solutions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a DIY help.By CustomerI was very disappointed with this book. I was expecting to see more do-it-yourself information.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very helpfulBy Wise OneVery helpful with much information we really needed. Sensible, practical solutions that can be done by the homeowner in most cases.8 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Told me to "consult a professional"...thanks!By R. BrownI specifically ordered this book because of drainage from a sloped lot which ends

around my crawl-space foundation. When I went to the section on drainage swales which is what's required to reroute the water around the house, it showed me a picture of what one looked like and told me to "consult a landscape architect"; well if I wanted to pay a professional I didn't need to waste money on a do-it-yourself book! It reminded me of medical books that are full of "consult your doctor"...thanks for the info. As for the solutions to other problems in the book, I haven't reviewed them in depth, but they look pretty basic. I suppose it could be useful for someone who want's a basic overview on "what can be done" instead of "how to do it", for example if they wanted to hire a contractor, so I'll give it one star more than the minimum for that.

Practical solutions for homeowners. The single most common problem facing homeowners is a wet basement and the problems associated with it: weakened and cracked foundation, mold and mildew, loss of storage space, water damage, and odor. Professional fixes are expensive and often involve digging trenches and excavating. This book explains several ways of diagnosing and fixing a wet basement and other home water problems: leaking roofs, leaky plumbing, and high humidity. The illustrated step-by-step repair and maintenance instructions will save homeowners a great deal of time and money. It covers: Wet basements Correcting the grade Waterproofing a basement Roof leaks Vapor retarders/air barriers Home humidity problems Windows and doors Plumbing and moisture Water conservation Floods A variety of practical solutions are offered for home water problems from quick and easy fixes to renovating and landscaping for water diversion and absorption. The book also includes valuable advice for prospective homeowners who want to spot potential water problems before buying a house.

How-to guide presents diagnostic information as well as a menu of solutions for the homeowner... easy-to-understand text is bolstered by detailed drawings. (Design NJ 2004-01-15)Well illustrated with easy to understand graphics... highly recommended for a general public library. (Charles Duvel E-Streams)Gary Branson... writes from experience, not research. If you already have problems with moisture, this useful book will show you what needs to be done. If you don't have problems with moisture, it tells you how to prevent them. (Laura Hardy Arkansas Democrat-Gazette 2004-07-03)A treasure trove of information on finding, treating and preventing water damage and flooding... clear language... plenty of illustrations and a glossary. (Orlando Sentinel 2003-10-12)Gary Branson's advice is anything but wet. (Columbus Dispatch 2003-10-25)Solution-based book... clearly drawn diagrams and graphics... advice about how to prevent problems from recurring, and better yet, how to avoid them altogether. (Bridget A. Otto Portland Oregonian 2003-10-30)If you buy only one DIY book this year, this should be it; recommended for every public library collection. (Library Journal 2003-12-01)About the Author Gary Branson was senior editor of Family Handyman magazine and a former home contractor. He is the author of Popular Mechanics Home How-To and Building Decks and Fences. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Introduction I am a former contractor, and was for ten years senior editor of Family Handyman magazine. One of my editorial duties was to answer readers' questions, 60 percent of which involved water problems: wet basements, leaking roofs or plumbing, mold and mildew, and excess moisture or humidity. Further research reinforced my opinion that this subject required a book. For example, in The Complete Book of Home Inspection, author Norman Becker, a plant engineer, states that the fourth most common house problem is wet basements. According to Becker, 50 percent of houses with basements have basement water problems. The eighth most common problem, damaged or missing roof gutters, affects 34 percent of all houses. The University of Minnesota Department of Public Service echoes Becker's estimate that wet basements plague 50 percent of houses in Minnesota; in my own work as a housing inspector, 75 percent of queries from clients have involved basement water problems. In a press release the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) named wet basements as the problem most often found by ASHI inspectors. An increasingly common problem concerns home humidity and its attendant problems. To reduce air infiltration and conserve energy, many current building codes call for tight construction, including full wall and ceiling vapor retarders. This requirement helps improve the energy efficiency of the house, but the lack of air entry may also raise indoor humidity levels to unacceptable or even damaging levels. The result can be a multitude of problems, including wood rot, rust and corrosion of the furnace or other steel appliances, damage to the interior plaster or wallboard, peeling paint on both the interior and exterior of the house, ruined insulation, and mildew or mold and their attendant odors. Other home water problems involve leaking roofs or leaking plumbing, and an increasing concern for water conservation. To answer those concerns, and to offer solutions, I've written this book. One word of caution. Most of the advice offered in this book is aimed at moisture problems of houses in geographical areas where there are four distinct seasons. Therefore, the advice and possible solutions given may not be applicable in all areas of the nation. For example, the coastal states from the Gulf of Mexico to the Virginias has warm temperatures and high humidity year-round. In these areas, where air conditioning may keep interior house temperatures lower than outdoor temperatures, the "cold side of the wall" will be the interior side. Any vapor barrier should be placed between the wall sheathing and exterior siding, rather than between the wallboard and the studs as is usually recommended. Also in a narrow band just above these coastal states the weather and humidity are such that no vapor barrier is recommended. Another example is the recommendations for venting of attics or crawl spaces. In cooler climates it is necessary to vent the moisture from the

crawl space to the drier air outside. But in warm, humid climates the exterior air may carry more moisture than interior or crawl space air, so ventilation may add moisture to these areas and compound any moisture problems. Building codes and conventional wisdom thus will vary according to geographical region, and readers are cautioned always to follow local building codes, consult local inspectors, and follow the time-tested customs for building in the particular climate.