

# Building on sinkholes - design and construction of foundations in Karst terrain

**ASCE Press - [PDF] Building on Sinkholes: Design and Construction of Foundations in Karst Terrain**

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Foundations -- Design and construction Building on sinkholes - design and construction of foundations in Karst terrain  
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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. [189]-191) and index.  
 This edition was published in 1996

Figure 3 shows how a leaking storm drain or water main may lead to the pipe breaking and how runoff from streets and houses may create subsurface cavities near building foundations. In time, this process can produce a large cavity in the soil overburden Fig.



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**Building on Sinkholes: Design and Construction of Foundations in Karst Terrain by George F. Sowers. Book Review.**

In other words, any of a number of contributing processes must have operated for some time. Unlike most other building environments, it is often necessary to conduct physical exploration at each foundation element location either prior to or during construction.

## Building in Karst Environments

The result can be differential settling of the building, which may produce cracks in the walls, foundation, and floor Fig. Rockhead in juvenile karst is generally sound except for isolated fissures or shallow caves: in youthful karst, rockhead only gives rise to minor problems due to its irregularities that usually can be dealt with by the use of piles or rafts; in both karst classes, small sinkholes can be spanned by rafts or piles with reinforced ground-beams. They can be so small as to be barely noticeable to 50 meters or more in width and depth.

**Building on sinkholes (1996 edition)**

Reger Permission is granted to reproduce this Fact Sheet so long as proper credit is given to Maryland Geological Survey. The water table and soil moisture fluctuate naturally during the year in response to patterns of precipitation, evaporation, and transpiration.

### **Building on Sinkholes: Design and Construction of Foundations in Karst Terrain**

Soil borings, rock coring, and air-track drilling are methods commonly used for physical exploration.

#### **Building on sinkholes (1996 edition)**

Collapse sinkholes seem to be most prevalent in the Frederick Valley and the Wakefield Valley.

#### **Foundation Design, Construction and Repair in Karst Terrain**

The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System has approved this course for 6. A final word of caution: Never climb into a collapse sinkhole, and never go into any visible opening at the bottom of a sinkhole--especially if you are alone. As the house is built, all of the weight, or load, is carried by the outside walls and footer.

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