

Silly Lift Details

How does a foundation replacement work?

Well we take your house and put her up in the air balanced on a couple of one-ton steel beams that are resting on 4 cribs. Cribs are kinda like building a square tower with popsicle sticks-just like you did when you were a kid.

To begin, we bust up the basement concrete, level it to grade and hand dig 4 holding cells for the cribs to match the height of the new forthcoming basement walls. There is a lot of guesswork going on at this point.

We poke adjacent holes in your house, front to back, for 2 steel beams to roll in and rest on top of a minimum of four cribs. There can be tension at this juncture as a lot of hollering and swearing can be heard.

Then we raise up your house either by using hand jacks that are placed under the beams or a more sophisticated jacking system that lifts your house evenly. ACS uses the latter.

Somehow, miraculously, your house appears to be levitating but in fact it is resting on the steel beams. That's when the walls come tumbling down.

We remove a basement wall, usually at the back of your house. A ramp is created to haul out your busted up concrete floor.

The rubble is removed, meaning hundreds of trips up and down the makeshift ramp to get in and out of your basement. The ramp gets really "greasy" if it rains.

Seriously, you got this video gamer operating a bob cat tearing around the basement, barely skirting the cribs, which should not be bumped by the way, hacking and trashing the walls your house used to sit on. I tell ya, it's quite an event.

So now your house is up in the air with all its private parts exposed. This can be an uncomfortable situation for all concerned.

Miraculously, a mystery woman appears and sprinkles salt around the perimeter of your property. She looks at your house lovingly and tells it not to be scared, even though everyone else is. Then she mumbles her way through some rituals to protect the house and the workers who learn by doing. Your house relaxes and so does everyone else.

Then come the footings, the sump pump, the weeping tiles and the poly core walls which are just Styrofoam. Your 15-20 ton house is going to be set down on Styrofoam. These Styrofoam walls are so light a child could carry them. Think about it.

To this date, we have no record of a 20-ton house crushing a Styrofoam wall system. It's an effing miracle that nothing untoward has happened thus far, really. Well it has, but not on our watch.

Backfilling can be tricky. This is where experience pays off because the whole foundation can go skewwhiff and literally tilt (shift to one side) if the backfill is not done properly. It is best not to ask questions during this procedure.

A tilting house has happened to other contractors or "do it yourselfers" but not to ACS. Here at ACS we have gained a lot of experience by watching what not to do. We are very experienced.

Once your house is on tilt, you might as well move because there ain't nothing gonna fix that, except maybe deep pockets. Deeper pockets than the ones you had before you started this project. Really, what were you thinking?

Seriously if you want higher ceilings in your basement, more light with bigger windows and a warm and cozy place you actually want to spend time in, replace your foundation with ACS. Your life will be transformed one way or another.

Sincerely,

The Mystery Woman

Spiritual Advisor to ACS