

## Understanding Sinkholes

For most Floridians, sinkhole is a frightening word. Visions of homes being swallowed, interstates caving in, and lakes being sucked dry often flood a property owner’s mind. While occurrences like this are rare, sinkholes more commonly manifest themselves as something simple, like a crack in a wall or a door that won’t shut properly.

Although they can be seen as a destructive force, sinkholes play an important role in Florida’s unique aquifer system by increasing ground-water flow. Our freshwater supply in the future is dependant upon adequate appreciation and conservation of sinkholes.

### Where Do Sinkholes Come From?

With more sinkholes than any other state in the nation, Florida’s unique terrain provides a natural environment for sinkholes to develop. Rainwater acidity slowly erodes the porous limestone below the surface, creating a cavity. When the ceiling of the cavity can no longer support the weight, the upper layers fall, sometimes all the way up to the surface.

During times of excessive drought or rainfall, this process is sped up by extreme changes in underground pressure.

### What Signs Do I Look For?

1. Previously buried parts of foundations or trees that have become exposed due to sinkhole ground.
2. Leaning of trees or fence posts and/or other yard markers.
3. Depressions or cracking in driveways, sidewalks and/or pool patio areas.
4. Difficulty in closing interior doors and/or exterior doors and windows.
5. Cracking walls. Look for any types of cracking on the exterior walls including stair-stepping, vertical or horizontal cracks. These cracks will usually begin showing on the outside and work their way to the interior side of your wall.

If you are suspecting that you have a sinkhole problem or that your property is experiencing settlement issues, choose Secure Foundation Systems, Inc. to be your remediation specialist.

Florida sinkholes affecting your property are very serious. The longer you wait to remedy the situation, the more disastrous it could become. Call **Secure Foundation Systems, Inc.** for a free Sinkhole and Settlement inspection.

For more photos and information on sinkholes visit [www.securefsi.com](http://www.securefsi.com).

