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Install Perimeter French Drain (Linear) Quality Checklist

Install Perimeter French Drain (Linear) using our interactive checklist to verify placement, slope, fabric, outlets, and cleanouts; commentable and export as PDF/Excel.

Project:	
Date:	
Filled by:	

Pre-Installation Survey and Materials	
1	Confirm scope excludes any sub-slab drains; review drawings, specifications, and permits with the team; document decisions and constraints.
2	Stake drain alignment offset from footing using total station; maintain ≥300 mm clearance; horizontal tolerance ±50 mm, elevation ±10 mm; attach as-built points.
3	Verify outlet locations and receiving invert levels enable ≥1.0% fall along the run; confirm with laser/level notes; upload invert shots and calc sheet.
4	Inspect materials: perforated pipe size/rating, non-woven geotextile 100–150 g/m², washed aggregate 20–40 mm; record delivery tickets and product data.

Trench and Bedding Preparation	
5	Excavate trench to design width/depth per drawings; maintain stable sidewalls; width ≥ pipe OD + 200 mm; upload photos with tape measure.
6	Rough-grade trench bottom to preliminary fall using laser/grade rod; tolerance ±10 mm from design; log grade checks at 5 m intervals.
7	Line trench with continuous non-woven geotextile; lap joints ≥300 mm, no tears or punctures; photo evidence of overlaps with scale.
8	Place 100 mm bedding of washed aggregate; screed to uniform surface; tolerance ±5 mm; lightly compact with hand tamper; record lift thickness.

Pipe Placement and Slope Control	
9	Lay perforated pipe with specified hole orientation (commonly holes down); connect using manufacturer couplers; verify watertightness; photo joints and lot IDs.
10	Set pipe invert fall to 1.0–2.0% using laser and grade rod; tolerance ±0.2% between checks; upload slope calculations and spot elevations.
11	Restrain pipe every 2 m with stakes or pins to prevent float or kinks; lateral deviation ≤25 mm; geo-tagged alignment photos required.
12	Install tees/bends with long-radius fittings; respect manufacturer maximum deflection; record fitting types and batch numbers.

Filter Fabric, Aggregate, and Backfill	
13	Place washed aggregate to 150 mm above pipe crown using chute/bucket; protect pipe position; confirm gradation 20–40 mm via certificates.
14	Wrap geotextile over aggregate to create full envelope; overlaps 300–450 mm; secure with pins/soil; photo closure seam with ruler.
15	Backfill in 150–200 mm lifts; compact to 90–95% MDD (per soil type) using plate compactor; attach field density results and equipment settings.
16	Finish grade to shed surface water away from foundation at ≥2% for first 2 m; verify with level shots; upload survey notes.

Outlets, Cleanouts, and Verification	
17	Install outlet to daylight/sump/storm line with stainless rodent screen; set invert for ≥1.0% approach fall; provide photos and invert checks.
18	Provide cleanouts at ends and every 15–20 m; extend to surface in boxes; plumb within ±10 mm/m; stationing log and photos required.
19	Protect outlets/cleanouts with covers or marker posts; label asset IDs; cap/cover flush with surface ±5 mm; upload geo-tagged photos.
20	Perform water flow test: introduce water upstream; confirm continuous discharge, no ponding; zero standing water after 10 minutes; attach video and readings.
21	Survey as-built alignment, inverts, and appurtenances; export point file and redlines; obtain inspector acceptance with signature.

Inspection, Handover, and Maintenance Briefing	
22	Inspect for exposed fabric or tears; repair with 300 mm geotextile patches; photo before/after with measured patch dimensions.
23	Verify no connections to sub-slab or sanitary systems; conduct dye/smoke test if required; upload test reports.
24	Compile O&M; package: product data, tickets, density results, as-built survey, approvals; export PDF/Excel; capture digital sign-offs.
25	Brief owner on maintenance: inspect outlets after storms, flush via cleanouts annually; provide checklist; record acknowledgement.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
Install Perimeter French Drain (Linear) is a focused field process that ensures foundation drainage performance by verifying alignment, continuous slope, filter fabric, outlets, and cleanouts. Also called a perimeter drain or linear French drain installation, this checklist targets exterior, footing-adjacent runs only and excludes any sub-slab drainage. By controlling gradient and material quality, the system intercepts groundwater, prevents hydrostatic buildup, and reduces moisture risks against walls. Key controls include non-woven geotextile selection, correct pipe orientation, washed aggregate gradation, and verifiable discharge points with serviceable cleanouts. Acceptance cues rely on laser-set inverts, documented overlaps, compaction in measured lifts, and a witnessed flow test to confirm free-draining performance. The outcome is a durable, maintainable drainage line that resists silting and delivers reliable outfalls to daylight, sumps, or storm connections per approved project specifications and authority requirements. Use this interactive page to tick steps, add comments, attach photos, and export your complete record to PDF/Excel via a secure QR link.	1. Preparation: Review drawings and permits; confirm scope excludes sub-slab drains. Gather tools (laser level, grade rod, total station, plate compactor), non-woven geotextile, washed 20–40 mm aggregate, perforated pipe, fittings, cleanout boxes, rodent screens, and PPE. Verify utilities, weather, and outlet elevations before excavation. 2. Using the Interactive Checklist: Open interactive mode, scan the QR code, and tick steps as completed. Add comments, attach geo-tagged photos, and log measurements (inverts, densities). Use section filters for teams. Export current progress or final records to PDF/Excel for review. 3. Sign-Off: Capture digital signatures from superintendent, inspector, and owner’s representative. Lock the record, archive drawings, and attach as-built survey. Distribute the export and QR-authenticated link to stakeholders per approved project specifications and authority requirements.