

Question 2: DEFINE AREAS WHERE FLOTATION IS AND IS NOT A PROBLEM

- A. Flotation is a problem:
  - 1. Where water level is at grade such as at the ocean shore or in valleys.
  - 2. If ground water is present below grade especially at time of installation (before soil has a chance to become a solid mass.)
  
- B. Flotation may not be a problem:
  - 1. In areas of the country without ground water.
  - 2. In areas where ground water is below the structure under consideration.

Question 3: HOW DOES A SPECIFICATION WRITER OR DESIGNER DETERMINE WHEN THERE IS A PROBLEM AT THE JOBSITE?

- A. The most reliable source of information is the soils report since it is based on a study of jobsite conditions.
  
- B. Drilling a hole in the vicinity of the project will reveal the depth of the water level from grade.
  
- C. Local well drillers who maintain records of water levels are a source of information.
  
- D. Local excavation contractors have first hand experience with ground water problems.
  
- E. As a last resort, (if flooding is not common to an area) design for water level at grade. This is a safe assumption used by many engineers. Consideration must be given to the fact that this "safe assumption" may add a significant cost to the project. The significant cost can be avoided when a simple investigation might reveal that water level for the area had never been higher than 3 feet below grade.