



**TKEC INFORMATION BULLETIN RI-009**

## **LANDSCAPING TO REDUCE WATER PROBLEMS**

Proper landscaping around a building is critical in maintaining dry basements, crawl spaces and the foundations of homes:

*Soil should be added so that all grades pitch away from the home for at least six feet.*

Make sure that the soil does not come in contact with any wooden construction materials.

Other grading issues may involve driveways and sidewalks. Any porches, patios, or decks should slope away from the building to promote good drainage.

If the building is located lower than surrounding properties, a water flow diversion device will be needed. These could include:

- Culvert or ditch
- Land berm
- French drain
- Storm sewers

Trees not only provide beauty but also serve as a wind break and energy savings device. However, when planted too close to a building their roots can damage to the structure providing a means of water infiltration into the building.

Proper drainage of rain, snow, and sleet off of your roof is also very important:

1. The roof overhand should be at least 18 inches wide with a gutter system and at least 30 inches without gutters.
2. The roof edge should have drip edge flashing installed.
3. Keep the rain gutters clean and free flowing.
4. Make sure there are a sufficient number of downspouts to remove rain water from the gutters.
5. Install splash blocks and extenders to release the water at least five feet from the house.

