

Do I need a raft foundation?

I have been told that I might need a raft foundation – what is that and why would I need it?

A raft foundation is a type of slab foundation which is reinforced, usually with steel mesh, to make it rigid. This means that the slab can “bridge” over soft spots in poor ground or move with and accommodate small movements in ground which might be vulnerable to shrinkage or heave.

Raft foundations can offer an effective solution in certain circumstances, for example if traditional trench foundations would need to be dug excessively deep. It became quite common to use reinforced slabs in the 1970s as a “cure-all” solution, however a raft foundation is not always the best option. Understanding what problems need to be overcome on site and designing the most cost-effective and job-specific foundation design to suit is what we do and one of our engineers will be happy to review any plans you have and discuss with you and your builder what is required in order to provide a free quotation.