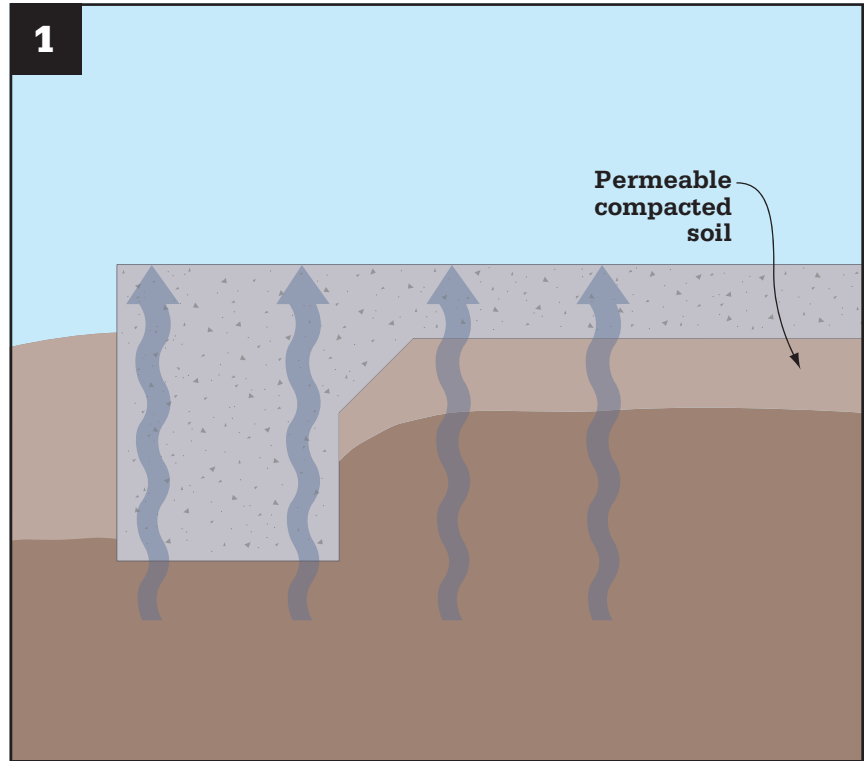
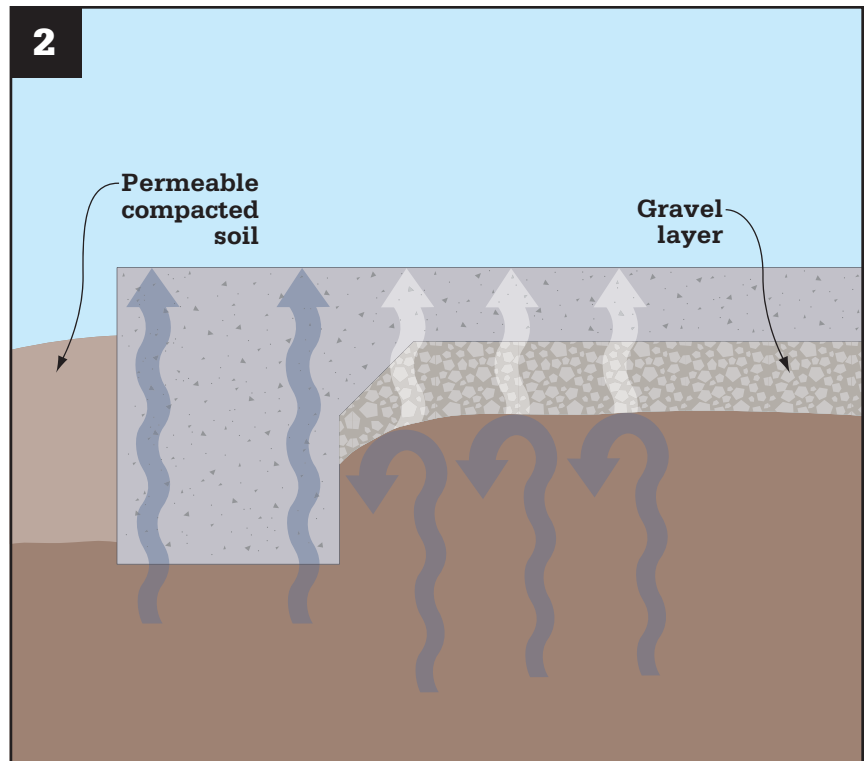


If the foundation crew doesn't install a gravel layer in the foundation area before placing the concrete, water will be able rise through the soil and into the porous foundation slab.



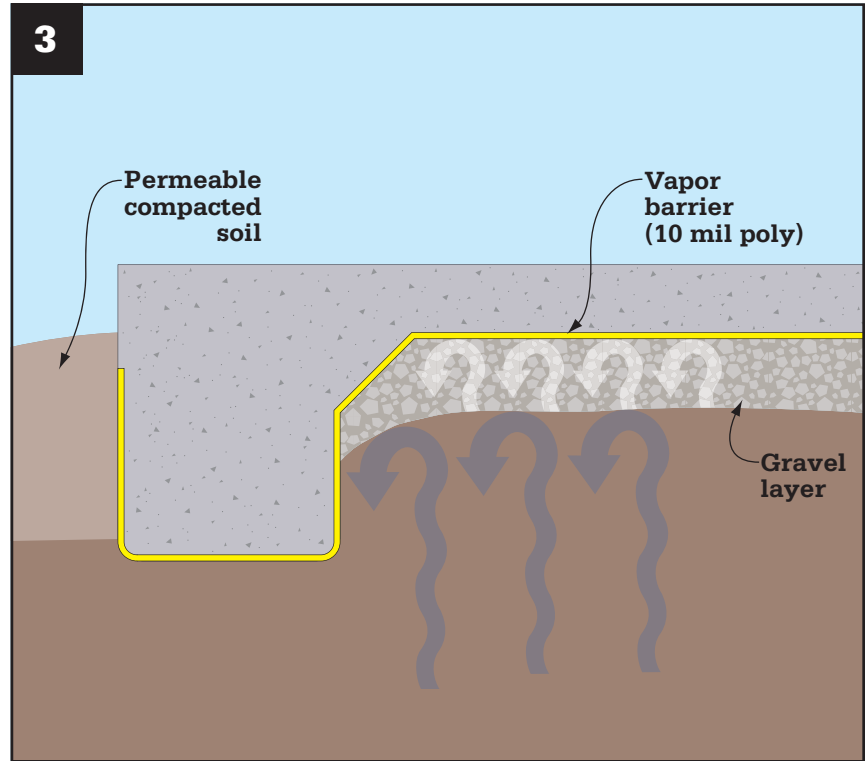
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To prevent groundwater from rising through the soil and wicking into the foundation slab, a layer of gravel should be laid out in the foundation footprint before the concrete is placed. The spaces between granules of gravel are too large for capillary action to take place, so groundwater cannot move upward through them.



A layer of gravel alone isn't enough to prevent water intrusion. Water can also rise in vapor form through the gravel layer and into the slab. To prevent water vapor from entering the slab, a 10 mil poly vapor barrier should be placed on the gravel layer.

Pro Tip! The vapor barrier also protects the slab from water intrusion if the water table rises through the gravel bed during times of heavy rainfall or snowmelt.



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