

CHAPTER 8
ROOF-CEILING CONSTRUCTION

SECTION R801.3
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R801.3 Roof drainage. In areas where expansive or collapsible soils are known to exist, all dwellings shall have a controlled method of water disposal from roofs that will collect and discharge all roof drainage to the ground surface at least 5 feet (1524 mm) from foundation walls or to an approved drainage system.

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Q: When a building utilizing a slab-on-grade, post-tensioned foundation, is constructed on expansive soils, is water collected at the roof and discharged to the ground surface required to be discharged no closer than 5-feet from the edge of the slab-on-grade foundation?

A: No. Water collected at the roof and discharged to the ground surface is required to be discharged at least 5 ft from foundation walls only, this provision does not apply to slab-on-grade foundations. Saturation of expansive soils by excessive water can lead to failure of the foundation because additional loads are imposed on the foundation wall by expansion of wet soil. Discharging roof water away from foundation walls serves to minimize saturation of expansive soils adjacent to the foundation walls.

