Groundhog Anchors

A support system for home and business. Benefits include quick install and low-maintenance durability

BY MARGARET ANNE FEHR • PHOTOGRAPHY BY GROUNDHOG ANCHORS.

WE OFTEN TAKE UNSEEN CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS for granted, but when the time comes to make major renovations to our property, it’s really wise to know what lies underfoot.

Groundhog Anchors is a product that’s kept something of a low profile since it first came to market in Winnipeg in 1987. Over the years, it’s been a reliable, alternative product to the pouring of cement piers in preparation for large scale projects like home additions, sunrooms, and decks.

Mike McFeetors is the owner of Groundhog Anchors, a patented product that has diverse applications for both residential and commercial markets.

McFeetors explains that Groundhog Anchor brand uses two mainstream models that are normally used for projects requiring eight foot depths; Model # 89 equipped with a 9 inch helix and Model #812 equipped with a 12 inch auger.

Both these models are suitable for sunrooms with roofs as well as full additions. Model # 812 has a safety load rating of 5000 lbs per anchor. McFeetors says the products have been thoroughly tested by NRC, National Research and Construction in Ottawa; and National Testing and Industrial Technology, both facilities here in Winnipeg.

Rating the benefits of Groundhog Anchors as opposed to concrete piers. Mr. McFeetors describes the Groundhog system as being less expensive overall. “One huge advantage is that the installation of the anchors does not disturb the land in finished yards. We can install the product without anybody knowing that we were even there. Compare that to the conventional process of pouring piles where you have someone come in to drill the holes, and having to deal with the resultant mud displacement. Then there’s the pouring of the cement that requires a 24 hour curing time before you can actually start construction on them. With our product, we can come in and put a foundation for a sunroom or similar project within 20 minutes and there’s no waiting for construction to begin.”

The use of Groundhog products also proves their mettle with older homes that were built on concrete pads or even at grade level without any under ground support. McFeetors says, “What happens is that a lot of people will build a deck and put it on concrete pads and it moves up and down as the seasons progress. The next owner comes along and decides they want to put a
roof on it, which creates more support issues and can create damage to the doors and windows. Says McFeetors, "We can actually go into an existing room, sunroom, or deck and drill through the floor to put in a proper foundation. It's a unique niche that we have."

Groundhog systems also offer an alternative for those character homes throughout Winnipeg with large porches that have beautiful hardwood flooring installed. "We know that those people are not keen on having their floors drilled through, so we have the capability of putting the anchors in underneath the porches two feet at a time and weld them on site, so as not to damage the original porch floors and still get down to the eight foot level. Homeowners get a stable foundation out of it. It won't ever move again and they get to salvage those fantastic old porches."

Groundhog Anchors offer many applications on both residential and commercial fronts. Smaller anchors have been utilized as guy-wire anchors for hydro poles, support mechanisms for oil refinery pipelines, tie-downs for trailers, play structures, tarp buildings, city street signs, tents, awnings and ornamental ironwork fencing, another service that the company offers.

"I've been in business for 20 years and know from customer feedback, that these anchors perform extremely well." McFeetors cautions that there are look-alike products on the market that are not necessarily manufactured to the same exacting standards as Groundhog Anchors.

For further information, consult www.neworder.ca/groundhoganchors