

# **Building on Expansive Clays with Special Reference to Trinidad**

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## **Abstract**

Expansive soils occur in abundance in the central and southern regions of Trinidad. Their expansive nature is facilitated by the seasonal changes that occur in the water content of these soils. They have been inflicting substantial damages to light buildings, pavements and utility lines, therefore, an understanding of the behavior of these soils and the local conditions in which they operate becomes essential so that the small builders, who are most often the victims, become aware of this phenomenon. With this objective, this paper is presented to explain in simple terms, the nature and causes of the deleterious behaviour of these soils in the local context.