

## Snowmelt Preparation

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- **01. Remove Rooftop Snow.** Rooftop snow accumulation not only adds weight but essentially stores water in the form of snow and ice. It's best to do what you can to remove some of that snow using a roof rake.
- **02. Clear Foundation Snow.** Snow can build up in drifts around the foundation. It can also stack up from scooping snow off sidewalks and driveways. It's best to clear the snow to a distance of four to six feet all the way around your home.
- **03. Install and Maintain Gutters, Downspouts, and Extensions.** Snowmelt from the roof moves through the gutters into the downspouts and ideally through the extensions onto your lawn that has been graded to facilitate flow away from the foundation. Make sure the gutters and downspouts are clear, free of leaves and obstructions. Consider placing extension lines in the ground to direct the water well away from the foundation.
- **04. Cover Basement Window Wells.** Snow can accumulate in basement window wells. Provide watertight covers and drainage to prevent water from entering through the window.
- **05. Install Proper Waterproofing and Drainage.** Fix any cracks and install an interior drainage system, including a sump pump to clear any leaking water. Make sure any existing drainage systems are clear and protected from freezing.
- **06. Add Insulation to Attic and Foundation Walls.** Heat can escape from the attic or foundation walls to cause melting and ice formation. To prevent this, add sufficient insulation, which can also save on heating costs.