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ROOF SNOWLOAD FAQs

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Q: I have long icicles and ice damming on my roof eaves. What should I do?

A: Heat escaping from the dwelling is melting snow at the shingles causing water to run down the roof where it freezes at the cold soffit overhang. What to do? Clear the snow from attic vents—ridge vent, whirly vent, flat vent—to create air flow to cool and remove moisture from attic space.

Q: Will ice damming cause water damage inside the house?

A: If melting snow is trapped as water behind the ice dam, it could creep under the shingles and drip onto attic insulation and come into the house. What to do? Make a channel in the ice dam to allow water to run out.

Q: When should I clear snow from the roof?

A: If your house was built after 2006 to current roof snow load capacity, 2.2 feet of compacted snow is approx. equal to capacity. If your house was built before 1985, 1.5 feet of compacted snow is capacity.

Q: The new snow is light and fluffy. Should I shovel it now?

A: When air temperatures rise, the snow will consolidate and compact and become heavier. With heavy rain on these snow depths, the roof loading and risks of structure failure increase significantly. It's better to shovel when the snow is light.

Q: Who can I call to shovel my roof?

A: Roof shoveling is a business opportunity for entrepreneurs. Ask if your contractor has WCB coverage and sign a contract.

1. Do not shovel alone - have a spotter
2. Use fall-restraint or a rope safety line
3. Do not over-exert yourself
4. Remove snow evenly from the roof to avoid unbalanced loading
5. Do not shovel all the way to the roof surface - leave 50mm (2 inches)
6. COMMERCIAL BUILDING ROOFS - Do not clear onto public sidewalks or roadways unless barricades are set up, and follow up to clear the right of way for public safety.

For more information please contact:

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