

Snowmelt Preparation

- **01. Repair Gutters and Downspouts.** Spring is a good time to repair any winter storm damage and prepare for summer storms. Once winter is here, it's almost impossible to make these repairs after ice has formed.
- **02. Clean Out Gutters and Downspouts.** Fall is a great time to not only clear all the leaves from your lawn but also clear all the gutters and downspouts so water can flow freely off the roof.
- **03. Improve Landscape Grading.** Whether it's snowmelt or rain, proper landscape grading can facilitate water runoff away from your home. Add downspout extensions or have these lines placed in the ground to route the water away from the foundation.
- **04. Remove Excess Rooftop Snow.** Use a roof rake to pull down snow from your roof. This not only eases the weight buildup but helps prevent ice dams and water buildup that can overwhelm your gutters and downspouts.
- **05. Don't Pile Snow Near Your Home.** When shoveling or blowing snow off walkways and the driveway, move it away from your foundation rather than piling it up there. You should also remove excess snow to a distance of four to six feet away from the foundation.
- **06. Add Attic and Foundation Insulation.** Heat escaping through the roof or through foundation walls can lead to snowmelt and water everywhere you don't want it. Additional insulation can help prevent this and save on heating costs.
- **07. Waterproof the Basement or Crawl Space.** Fix cracks and install an interior drainage system. A sump pump system can remove any water that does make it into your basement or crawl space.
- **08. Sump Pump Maintenance.** Check the drain lines along with the battery backup for a sump pump. It's also critical to monitor for possible freezing drain lines that can cause burned-out pumps.