



Snowmelt Preparation for Your Home

- **01. Fix Basement Cracks.** Water finds the tiniest of openings to enter, and if that's accompanied by freezing, it can expand the cracks. For this reason, it makes good sense to fix any cracks well before winter weather or spring thaws.
- **02. Remove Rooftop Snow.** If the temperatures are expected to remain low along with further snowfall, it can be worthwhile to remove some or all of that snow. A roof rake can be used to remove snow without climbing up on the slippery roof. Also make sure to keep the snow at least four to six feet away from the perimeter of your foundation.
- **03. Keep Gutters and Downspouts Clear.** As you prepare for winter, make sure the gutters are clear of leaves and that the downspouts are free of any obstructions. It's also wise to install extensions that move the water away from the foundation.
- **04. Consider Landscape Slope Grading.** Once the water is off the roof and onto the ground, it needs to continue to flow away from the foundation. This is best facilitated by a gradual slope away from the foundation.
- **05. Add Attic and Foundation Insulation.** Any heat escaping through the attic or around foundation walls can start snowmelt, building up water that will find its way to the foundation. Add sufficient insulation to not only prevent this but also save on utility bills, including air conditioning costs.
- **06. Install a Basement Drainage System.** Install an interior drainage system and sump pump system that can collect any leaks, remove them, and prevent serious water damage and flooding.
- **07. Invest in a Backup Sump Pump.** Make sure any existing sump pump drain lines are open and that you have a backup arrangement in place. Failure of the sump pump can lead to extensive flooding. Also, watch for freezing of the drain lines.