



Prepare Your Home for Spring Snowmelt

- **01. Attic and Foundation Insulation.** Heat escaping from your roof or through the walls of your basement or crawl space can melt the snow and start water moving toward your foundation. Adding insulation can also save on heating costs.
- **02. Remove Snow from the Roof.** You can use a roof rake to clear excess snow, preventing the accumulation of snow, development of ice, and the excess flow of water during a thaw.
- **03. Clear Snow from the Foundation.** Clear the snow from around your home to a distance of four to six feet. This helps mitigate soil saturation around your foundation with warmer temperatures.
- **04. Gutters and Downspouts.** Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clear and ready to handle the flow of water. Downspout extensions and landscape grading should route the water away from your foundation.
- **05. Fix Basement or Crawl Space Cracks.** Water can find even small cracks, entering and then freezing, making them bigger cracks. So any cracks in your foundation should be identified and fixed so your home is protected during winter weather.
- **06. Waterproof the Basement or Crawl Space.** In addition to fixing cracks, installing an interior drainage system and sump pump in your basement or crawl space can remove water before it causes damage.
- **07. Sump Pump System Maintenance.** Make sure you take care of the maintenance of your sump pump drainage system. This includes making sure the drain lines don't freeze in the winter, preventing water drainage and potentially causing sump pump burnout.