



Prepare Your Home for Snowmelt

- **01. Remove Rooftop Snow.** As snow builds up on the roof, it's a good idea to remove some or all of it using a roof rake. Don't risk climbing on the roof. A roof rake from ground level can make a big difference.
- **02. Remove Snow From Around Your Foundation.** Now that you've got the snow off the roof, it's critical that you greatly reduce the snow that's piled up around the foundation. Ideally, it should be cleared to a distance of four to six feet away from your foundation walls.
- **03. Install and Maintain Gutters, Downspouts, and Extensions.** Snowmelt moves off the roof and into the gutters and downspouts. It's vital to keep the gutters clear and the downspouts free from obstructions. There should also be extensions on the downspouts that take the water well away from the foundation.
- **04. Consider Landscape Grading.** Once the water clears the downspouts and extensions, the landscape slope should be downward to help the water continue its movement away from the basement or crawl space. Ensure your grading is helping and not hindering this flow.
- **05. Install a Proper Drainage System.** Keep water out of your home by installing an interior drainage system and a sump pump. Not only do these solutions help clear up any early leaks and prevent flooding, they also are good to have year-round to reduce humidity and prevent mold.
- **06. Practice Drainage System Maintenance.** If you already have a drainage system, make sure the sump pump is working including clearing the drain hoses and pipes. Preventing frozen drains should also be on your list.
- **07. Add Attic and Foundation Insulation.** A warm home leads to melting snow on the roof and around the foundation. Add insulation to prevent heat from escaping and to lower energy bills.

