

## How to Prepare for Snowmelt

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- 01. Clear the Snow.** Keep snow from building up around your foundation to at least four to six feet. As snow builds up on your roof, use a roof rake to remove it. All this will reduce the water buildup around the basement or crawl space.
- 02. Install and Maintain Gutters and Downspouts.** Install correctly sized gutters and downspouts to handle the expected rain and snowmelt. Keep them clear of leaves and obstructions as well as repair any damage.
- 03. Consider Landscape Grading.** Once the water is on the ground, it needs to move away from the foundation. Landscape grading provides the slope necessary to keep the water moving. Also, use downspout extensions to move the water from the roof well away from the foundation.
- 04. Install Attic and Foundation Insulation.** Thawing from heat escaping from the attic and around the foundation can lead to foundation leaks and flooding. Add attic insulation and ensure the foundation is adequately insulated to prevent heat escape. This can also save on energy costs.
- 05. Waterproof Your Foundation.** Install an interior drainage system to collect and remove leaks before they can cause damage and flooding.
- 06. Practice Sump Pump System Maintenance.** With any existing drainage system, make sure the sump pump is working and that the drain lines are clear. Watch throughout the winter for freezing drain lines that could lead to serious problems.