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# Helpful Home Tips

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## **Build-up of Ice and Snow on Your Roof**

What do you think of when you think of winter? As a kid, it always reminded me of the start of the holiday season and as Canadians, we are reminded of this each time we walk into the local department store at the mall with the lights and Christmas-themed music.

I also remembered the first snowfall and watching my dad go out and shovel snow off the driveway and the roof. When I was young, I never realized why my dad decided to remove it off the roof. I always thought it made the house look more bright and appealing.

However, with the beauty comes the negative aspect of keeping the snow and ice on the roof: It can add hundreds of pounds of weight to your roof and a build-up can lead to wall and ceiling cracks, even roof collapses.

Here are some steps you can take to keep your roof in good shape:

- Proper insulation – reducing the ice build-up can also reduce your heating bills! Snow can often turn into a crust of ice that will continue to build during the winter especially if your roof is warm. Therefore, proper insulation ensures that the warmth stays in the living areas and it does not escape to the attic and eventually the roof.
- Quick removal – shovel off snow after a heavy snowfall if it can be done safely. Snow can often turn into a crust of ice that will continue to build during the winter especially if your roof is warm. The more snow that accumulates on your roof, the more it is susceptible to collapses. Also make sure that the gutters are clear from any debris to prevent blockage.
- Smart removal – make sure you are careful to remove the ice and snow without causing damage to the roof. Damaging the roof can cause leaks and will require costly repair.
- Safety – make sure that you are careful not to slip on the icy roof and not to place your snow-clearing instrument near any low-hanging power lines.

Because winter poses the biggest threat to your roof's durability, making sure that you keep your roof in good condition will ensure that it will last through the current winter months and beyond.