



John Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Building Department

Douglas C. Jourdan
Chief Building Official

MAJOR SNOW STORM ISSUES

Heavy snow buildup on roofs can cause serious damage or a total collapse.

Listed below are some of the warning signs that your roof is overloaded with snow, water and or Ice.

- Sagging or falling ceiling tiles or boards and/or sagging sprinkler lines and sprinkler heads.
- Sprinkler heads that have dropped below the ceiling.
- Popping cracking or creaking noises.
- Sagging roof members, metal decking, plywood sheathing and or sheetrock.
- Bowing bottom chords or web sections of roof trusses.
- Cracked or split wood roof rafters and or collar ties.
- Cracks in walls or masonry.
- Sagging door or window frames and/or windows or doors that do not operate properly.
- If you have any of the above mentioned items call 911 and get out of the building.

These materials need to be removed as soon and safely as possible to reduce the weight on the roof.

If you have to remove the snow or ice from your roof we urge you to contact a roofing or snow removal professional.

If you decide to remove the snow yourself please consider the following advice

- Do not go up on the roof your added weight could cause a collapse.
- Use a snow rake for pitched roofs and only plastic shovels on flat roofs
- Start from the edge and work your way up the roof. On a sloped roof snow should be pulled down the slope of the roof not across the roof (which may damage the shingles).
- Remember that the metal tools can conduct electricity if they touch a power source such as buried and/or damaged electric conduits and overhead service entrance cables.
- You do not have to remove all of the snow down to the roof surface, leaving a few inches will help protect the roof from damage by your tools.
- Remove large icicles and remove ice from gutters and downspouts. Make sure that downspouts are clear at ground level.
- Be careful where you throw the snow. The weight of the snow can damage shrubs and air conditioning units that are on the ground.

After the materials have been removed you should hire a Structural Engineer to assess any damage that may have occurred.

Click on the link below for more information

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/7d8c55d1c4f815edf3d7e7d1c120383f/FEMA957_Snowload_508.pdf

PORTABLE GENERATORS

If you are using a portable generator it should be installed outside of the house a minimum 10 feet from the house. Wiring to connect the generator should be done by a licensed electrician. The electrician knows how the wiring should be installed to protect you from overloading the circuits, creating a fire and to protect the utility workers from back feeding the power generated.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Make sure that the exhaust and intake for your direct vent water heater, boiler/furnace and clothes dryer are free of snow. Do not run gas grills, charcoal grills, or generators inside your garage or house. These items should be at least 10 feet from the house.

To further protect your family you should have a smoke detector in each bedroom and a combination smoke carbon monoxide detector in the vicinity of the bedrooms (in the hallway) with one also installed on each floor including the cellar.

Should you have any questions please feel free to call us.

The Newington Building Department

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