

Snow Accumulation on Structures

This winter has resulted in significant amounts of snow fall in the Simcoe County Region. When this increased snow depth occurs, Building Division staff frequently receive calls from property owners regarding the amount of snow and ice buildup on the roofs of homes and cottages and other structures. Most are concerned about how much snow a roof can withstand before it needs to be cleared of snow.

There are many factors that are involved with trying to understand the amount of snow a structure can safely withstand. This includes depth of snow, outdoor air temperatures, age of home, structure of roof, slope of roof, drift loading, type of roofing system/shingle, etc. Due to these differing factors, Building Division staff are not able to accurately identify the amount of snow a building can withstand. The following are some things to consider when snow and ice is building up on your roof to help prevent failure or collapse.

- If there is doubt in the ability for the roof to withstand the weight of snow and ice accumulation, a good maintenance practice to remove snow should be implemented.
- Although some homeowners may feel capable of removing snow from their roof, there are professionals that can provide this service for you. If you are going to have someone remove the snow from your roof, it is important to ensure that the Occupational Health & Safety Act is followed.
- After the roof has been cleared, be sure that walkways, entrances, decks and green civic address signs are cleared. This will allow for safe travel in and out of buildings and for Emergency services to respond if the need arises.

Helpful links

[Removing snow from roofs: get ahead of winter with a 10-step plan](#)
[Alert: Snow loading and roof failures | ontario.ca](#)

Stay Safe!

The Building Division Team
building@oro-medonte.ca