

5 Ways to Prepare your Home for the “Great Meltdown”

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With the record breaking winter New England has experienced coming to a close, it is important for home owners to prepare their property for the great meltdown of 2011. To protect your home from damage (Or further damage) it is important to consider the following tips:

- 1.) Clear snow away from the foundation of your home to prevent water seeping into the foundation. This includes window wells and exterior stairwells.
- 2.) Dig a path for melt water to flow away from your home. Clean out gutters to ensure they are in working condition, also shovel a place for them to drain once the snow and ice thaw.
- 3.) Vigilantly inspect the ceilings and walls of your home. Because accumulations were so high this winter the weight of the snow and ice may have compromised the structure of your home causing cracks and leaks. These problems are a lot less expensive when taken care of right away, if left unattended extensive damage could be caused- including harmful mold growth.
- 4.) Evaluate your foundation. Do you see any cracks? If so, these need to be patched as soon as possible because like insects and other unwanted houseguests, water can penetrate your home through even the tiniest of cracks. It also might be a good idea to keep expensive items and family photographs elevated if you store them in your basement- just in case.
- 5.) Research a contractor. Even if your home has remained unscathed from the elements this year and you feel prepared for spring, make sure to have a reliable contractor on hand. It's important to spend time researching, checking references, and verifying insurance- that way if a problem does arise you won't need to panic and you'll be confident with someone reliable on hand.

By following these five tips you will be able to protect your home and your sanity this spring.