

SERVICE NOTES

FROM NATIONS ROOF

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SNOW LOADS

by

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So winter is upon us again and excessive snow totals are expected for the 2006 season. Nations Roof has compiled a roof service plan for the excessive snow loads due to the accumulation of snow and ice. First, ice storms are expected to leave from one to three inches, then large snowfalls will add to the total weight that trusses and rafters must support. Because of the ice layer, snow cannot melt, and it is likely that the layer of ice will not melt until the spring. Each additional snowfall this year will intensify the weight problem.

How much weight can most roofs take? Snow loads for buildings in the eastern regions are generally around 20 lbs. per square foot. This does not include the weight of the roof membrane, trusses and any HVAC equipment on the roof areas.

How Much Does Snow Weigh?

A one-inch layer of water or ice weighs approximately five lbs. per square foot. A roof designed for a 20 lb. per square foot snow load could theoretically hold up to four inches of ice. How much snow is that?

Meteorologists estimate that about 12 inches of snow is equivalent to one inch of water, which means a roof can hold up to four feet of snow. Wet and packed snow weighs more, so a roof with a load of wet snow or packed snow might only to be able to handle up to three feet of snow.

What is a safe amount of snow to have on your roof over an extended period of time? A good estimate would be about half of the 20 lb. per square foot design load, or about two feet of snow, or approximately one inch of ice and one inch of snow.



What Does This Mean To You as a Nations Roof Customer?

With Nations Roof managing your roofs, you will be free from the worry that your roofs will collapse under severe snow loads, keeping you, your customers and your employees safe. With Nations Roof managing your roofs, you will avoid the need to send your maintenance personnel to frantically shovel your roofs which often results in inadvertent holes and cuts. Nations Roof will monitor your roofs' snow weights all winter to control snow load problems, keeping all drains, walls and other expensive HVAC equipment on the roof from being damaged and clogged. Most of all, this means Nations Roof will keep your roof from aging before its time, saving you money and giving you the peace of mind that allows you to concentrate on managing your business.

Let Nations Roof handle your roof system snow removal. Whether your roofs are new or old, we have the knowledge, experience and right equipment to handle your snow removal needs no matter how severe the winter. Call us today to register your building for this vital service.



For more information, please call toll-free

1-800-444-ROOF