



# My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

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## Dealing With Winter

Long Canadian winters, can get pretty tough to deal with. The accumulation of snow can create huge drifts up against your home. On the positive side this helps insulate you from the frigid temperatures outside. However it may also cause flooding when spring comes around. The winter also poses other threats to your home and your safety. Here are some tips to manage snow buildup over the coming winter months.

### Snow Buildup

Snow build up on the ground can be a big concern when it comes to your foundations. Be sure to shovel the snow away from your foundations through the winter months as it can cause leakage and cracking. Many people don't realize concrete is a porous material. The moisture from melting snow beside your foundation can slowly seep through your foundation. As the night rolls in and the temperature drops the water in the concrete can freeze causing small cracks, which may let in water into your basement, which will eventually create mold.

Another reason you should keep snow away from your foundation is to keep build up away from your high efficiency furnace exhaust. Those are the little white tubes the stick out of the side of your house. If they get covered carbon monoxide will fill your house, leading to possible death.

### Icy Ground

Ice may cause you, your loved ones and the ones you may not love so much to slip-and-fall. While rock salt is a cheap solution, please use it sparingly – it is hard on concrete and asphalt, it burns the grass come springtime and is really hard on dog paws, and other wild life like fish in our lakes. Add traction to the surface by dispersing sandbox sand or fine gravel over the area. While sand will not melt the ice, it will provide improved grip underfoot. Using an environmentally friendly melting solution like Snow Joe Melt is another option.

### Ice Dams

Another winter worry is ice dams. In a lot of old Toronto home the attic is very poorly insulated. This causes the heat meant for you and your family escapes through the roof's surface and melting the snow resting on top. Direct sunlight on a south-facing roof also accelerates snow melting. The water from the melted

snow flows down the roofline where it hits a point below the freezing in the eavestrough. The ice continues to back up after that creating a dam. The growing dam impedes the further passage of water off the roof. The water backs up the roof and may cause water to leak into the attic, resulting in damaged insulation, ceilings, walls and roof structure.

Ice dams, once started, continue to grow through the winter and form large heavy icicles, which can rip eavestrough, right of your home. Or seriously injure someone when they fall.