



# **20 Questions on YOUR Preparedness for Ice Dam Season**

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## 20 Questions on YOUR Preparedness for Ice Dam Season

### 1. Why are ice dams called ice dams?

- a) They cover up your gutters, preventing rain from flowing through the gutters
- b) The ice forms a barrier that keeps water (from melting snow) trapped on your roof
- c) The ice forms a barrier that makes it harder for you to rake the snow off your roof

### 2. Where on your roof are ice dams LEAST likely to form?

- a) Overhangs
- b) Valleys
- c) Peak (ridge)

### 3. Which of the following statements is FALSE?

- a) Gutters can cause ice dams
- b) Poor attic insulation can aid in the development of ice dams
- c) Any amount of snowfall can aid in the development of ice dams

### 4. What kind of snow causes ice dams?

- a) Heavy, wet snow
- b) Light, crunchy snow
- c) Any kind of snow

### 5. Which of the following most accurately describes how ice dams typically form?

- a) Snow falls, then it rains, and snow-rain mixture refreezes into ice.
- b) Snow falls, hot roof causes some snow to melt into water, and water rolls down to cold parts of roof and freezes into ice.
- c) Heavy snow falls, and because it's so heavy it simply gets packed into ice over time.

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**6. Which of the following is LEAST effective at preventing ice dams?**

- a) Keeping plenty of salt on your roof
- b) Making sure your attic is well-insulated
- c) Keeping the snow off your roof (like by means of roof-raking)

**7. What part of your roof is MOST important to rake, in order to prevent ice dams?**

- a) Overhangs
- b) Valleys
- c) Around the chimney

**8. What's the main problem with "salt pucks"?**

- a) They don't melt enough ice to reduce the size of ice dams significantly or prevent further damming
- b) They can discolor shingles and discolor or kill plants and/or grass
- c) Both of the above

**9. What's the most effective roof-raking technique?**

- a) Rake as much snow off the center of the roof as possible, because that's the area that receives the most heat from the attic
- b) Start raking the overhangs and edges of the roof first, then work your way towards the peak of the roof; that makes it easiest to pull all the snow off
- c) Both of the above; these techniques are equally effective

**10. How do you know when you've successfully prevented ice dams?**

- a) You don't see any icicles
- b) Your roof isn't leaking
- c) You don't see any ice dams, even after you've removed the snow from your roof

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**11. What might happen if you try to knock or rip icicles off your roof?**

- a) You could rip off pieces of your shingles
- b) You could get injured
- c) Both of the above

**12. Accurate “free estimates” are extremely difficult or impossible for ice dam removal services to provide over the phone or in-person. Why?**

- a) A blanket of snow usually covers most of the ice dams, so the snow must be removed before the technician can even see how large or extensive the ice dams are
- b) By law they aren't allowed to provide free estimates over the phone
- c) They would need to know the exact dimensions and pitch of your roof in order to gauge the severity of your ice-dam problem

**13. Which of the following ice dam removal techniques is LEAST likely to damage your roof?**

- a) Using blunt instruments (chisels, ice-picks, hammers) or torches
- b) Melting the ice dams with hot water
- c) Melting the ice dams with steam

**14. If you hire a steam-only ice dam removal service, which of the following ice dam removal techniques is most effective at preventing ice dams from recurring?**

- a) Removing all the ice and snow from your roof
- b) Removing only the ice dams from your roof, and not bothering to remove the snow
- c) Cutting strategically-placed channels into the ice dams, allowing the dammed-up water to flow off your roof (and saving time “on the clock” that you'd otherwise have to pay for)

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**15. What if your ice dam removal technician steps in snow on your roof and leaves behind hard-packed snow footprints?**

- a) The snow footprints can damage your shingles if left on your roof for an extended period of time
- b) The footprints can refreeze into ice and create additional ice dams
- c) The footprints usually remain on your roof well into May—long after the rest of the snow on your roof has melted

**16. Why should you make sure that your ice dam removal technician knows where your gas meter is located outside?**

- a) Because it's required by state law
- b) Because your technician will need to be able to climate-control your home or business so that the attic, roof, and snow & ice remain at a steady temperature
- c) Because you don't want snow to be dumped onto the gas meter, which may obstruct the "breather" holes and cause your gas (and heat) to shut off, requiring you to pay someone to dig your gas meter out from under the snow

**17. How much obligation is your insurance company under to provide ice dam removal for you?**

- a) Your insurance will probably cover most or all of it
- b) It depends, but the chances are about 50/50 that your insurance company will pay for a portion of it
- c) Your insurance will not cover ice dam removal

**18. If your ceiling is visibly soggy—as though water has leaked through your roof—or if you actually see water dripping from your ceiling, what is the best, least-risky way to manage the leaking?**

- a) By going up into your attic and trying to remove the water with buckets and by mopping it up—and getting the ice dams removed ASAP
- b) By setting up as many fans as you can in the room where the leaking is, and by poking one or more small holes in the soggiest part of the sheetrock with an awl or long nail, so as to allow the water to drain into buckets and not pool up above the ceiling—and then getting the ice dams removed ASAP
- c) By setting out as many buckets and rags as you possibly can in order to catch the water—and then getting the ice dams removed ASAP

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**19. How does the depth of your roof overhangs (AKA eaves) affect the development of ice dams?**

- a) Overhangs are usually deep because they have gutters, and gutters cause ice dams
- b) If your overhangs are deep, it's harder to rake the parts of your roof above the overhangs
- c) The deeper overhangs hold more potential for big ice dams

**20. Approximately how much does one cubic foot of ice weigh (that is, an ice block that measures 1 foot x 1 foot x 1 foot)?**

- a) 17 lbs.—not very heavy, but adds up when your roof is covered in ice
- b) 37 lbs.—fairly heavy, and equivalent to about 4 gallons of water when it melts
- c) 57 lbs.—*very* heavy, and can add up to several *tons* of stress and (eventually) water on your roof

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Finished? [Get the answers now](http://www.icedamremovalguys.com/20-questions) by going to <http://www.icedamremovalguys.com/20-questions> and filling in your name and email address.

(Don't worry—we **will not** spam you or share your info; we just want to make sure you're a person and not an evil Web robot.)

By the way, please feel free to share this quiz with any friends of yours who might be worried about ice dams this winter.

**To a safe, ice-dam-free roof!**

Joe Palumbo, President

