



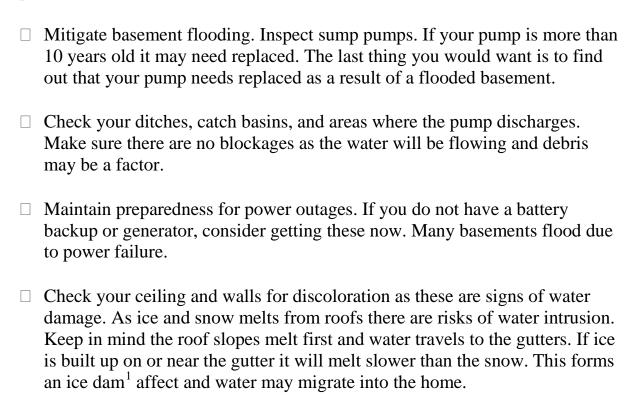
Readiness Checklist:

Preparing for the Thaw



By Keith G. Tidball, PhD Department of Natural Resources Extension Disaster Education Network, Cornell University

As we look forward to the warmer temperatures of Spring, we should begin to prepare for the inevitable water issues that will result from a record cold and snowy winter in New York State. When the snow starts to melt, how can we be prepared?



¹ For more expert advice regarding ice dams and your roof, see http://www.human.cornell.edu/dea/outreach/upload/roof-ice-damming.pdf

Rake the snow off your roof if you can. This will eliminate moisture runoff. If you notice icicles hanging from your gutters you may want to call a roofer to help chip valleys in the ice to allow water runoff. Creating this will allow the water to run off, verses pooling up on the roof and entering your home. Walking the roof is not recommended. Inspecting the gutter line and removing snow while safely on the ground is preferable.
If raking snow off of roofs or removing ice buildup, protect landscaping and plants ahead of time.
Maintain driveways and walkways, which will become increasingly slippery and dangerous with the freeze/thaw cycles of March and April.
Continue maintenance and accessibility of fire hydrants. Do not let them become buried or they may be encrusted in ice and snow when you need them most.

