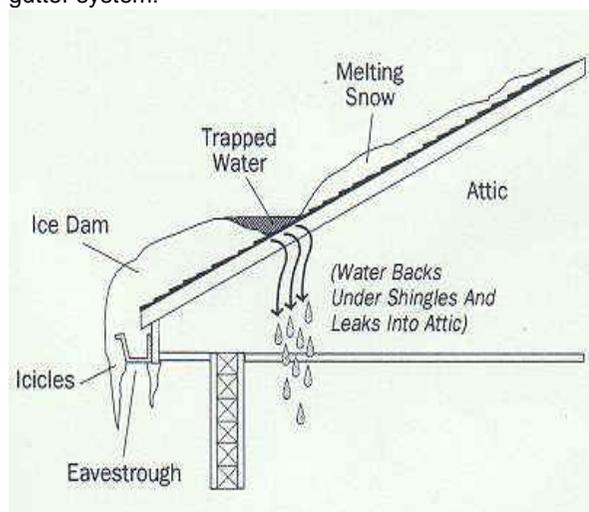


Ice damming due to much misinformation, is often perceived as something related to gutters that were not cleaned in time for snow and cold temperatures. That is just not true. **Ice damming is a common problem for houses and buildings in cold climates. An ice dam can occur when snow accumulates on the slanted roof of a house with inadequate insulation and ventilation in the attic.** Warmth coming up through the roof melts the snow where it meets the roof surface. Melted water flows down the roof, under the blanket of snow, onto the eave (overhang) and into the gutter, where colder conditions on the overhang cause it to freeze. Eventually, ice builds up along the eave and in the gutter. Behind this ice dam forms a puddle of water which can be anywhere from several to 18 inches + deep that cannot drain through the gutter system!



This is a serious problem that can result in:

- Leaking roof
- Wet, ineffective insulation, which will need to be replaced
- Stained or cracked plaster or drywall
- Rotting timber
- Stained, blistered or peeling paint.

Under extreme conditions, with heavy snow and severe cold, almost any house can have an ice dam. However, homes with poor insulation and ventilation will develop ice dams during average winter weather. Giant icicles hanging from the eaves or the gutters are one indication of a poorly insulated and/or poorly ventilated attic.

The **short-term remedy** is to "cut" some channels in the ice dam to drain the water from behind it and to remove the snow off the roof, in order to remove or reduce the source of the water and ice dam. However, as simple as this seems, we **do not** recommend that you do this yourself! Inexperience can lead to unnecessary roof damage, gutter damage or even worse, serious personal injury or death.

The **long-term remedy** is to enlist the services of a professional roofer/carpenter and insulation specialist in order to properly insulate the attic and make sure the attic has proper ventilation. This kind of work is best done in the spring, summer or fall, not in the winter.

If this ever happens to your home, please call us as we may be able to remove the snow and ice off the roof for you. This should "buy" you some time to remedy the problem for good. Finally, by no means should you ever go up on the snow and ice covered roof yourself!

