

AmTrust Property Zone

Snow Load Dangers for Businesses

When snow accumulates on a building's roof, it could lead to many risks for a business from leaking to a roof collapse. Protect your business by learning how to prevent the damage that can be caused by a heavy snow load.

Give Melted Snow a Place to Go

- Melted snow that can't drain may freeze into ice dams
- Keep drainage systems unblocked

The Type of Snow Matters

1 cubic foot of fresh light, dry snow = about

3 lbs

1 cubic foot of wet, heavy snow = about

21 lbs

1 cubic foot of ice = about

57 lbs

Excessive Snow Loads Can Cause Roof Damage or Collapse

- Snow accumulation can occur from one or multiple storms
- Snow load on the ground may not be the same as snow load on the roof
- Know the snow load capabilities of your building

Unbalanced Snow Loads Can Increase the Danger

Watch for:

- Wind direction
- Sliding snow
- Drifting snow
- Roof valleys where snow accumulates
- Roof equipment that adds weight and causes snow to accumulate

From Bad to Worse



Misguided attempts to remove snow can increase the risk of injury and property damage.



Prevention is the best strategy. Have the roof, drains and attic inspected before winter.



Watch for excessive snow load warning signs, such as cracking and doors or windows that no longer open and shut properly.



If structural snow load is excessive, contact a professional for removal.



If structural damage is evident, evacuate and contact a professional for inspection and repairs.

Sources: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1417724950595-b0f4662b0ea0534cb28e1f40074e6cfc/FrozenWaterPipes.pdf>
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes.html>

For additional information and resources on this topic and other safety and risk management subjects be sure to visit the Loss Control section on our website:

www.amtrustfinancial.com/loss-control



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