Snowmelt Preparation for Your Home

01. **Fix Basement Cracks.** Water finds the tiniest of openings, and if that’s accompanied by freezing, can expand the cracks. For this reason, it makes good sense to fix any cracks well before winter weather or spring thaws.

02. **Add Attic and Foundation Insulation.** Any heat escaping through the attic or even the foundation can start snowmelt building up water that can find its way to the foundation. Add sufficient insulation to not only prevent this but to also save on utility bills.

03. **Remove Snow From Your Rooftop and Foundation.** Snow buildup brings a great deal of added weight to your roof, as well as water. Use a roof rake to remove that snow without climbing up on the slippery roof. Snow should also be removed from around the foundation to a distance of four to six feet. Also, don’t stack up snow removed from the sidewalks or driveway around your home.

04. **Keep Gutters and Downspouts Clear.** As you prepare for winter, make sure the gutters are clear of leaves and that the downspouts are free of any obstructions. It’s also wise to install extensions, either above ground or in-ground, that move the water well away from the foundation.

05. **Grade Landscape Slope Away from the Foundation.** Once the water is off the roof and onto the ground, it needs to continue to flow away from the foundation. This is best facilitated by a gradual slope away from the foundation.

06. **Cover Basement Window Wells.** Window wells can collect a great deal of snow and allow snowmelt ready access to the basement. Install covers and caulk the windows to address this challenge.

07. **Install Interior Drainage Systems.** Install an interior drainage system and a sump pump that can collect any leaks, remove them, and prevent serious water damage and flooding.

08. **Ensure Sump Pump Maintenance and Backup.** If you already have a sump pump system, make sure the drain lines are open and that you have a backup arrangement in place. Failure of the sump pump can lead to extensive flooding. Also, watch for freezing of the drain lines.