

WINTER CARE: Snow & Wind Load



Our structures are designed in Canada with a *gothic* shape with a slippery cover to be lightweight and snow resistant. This encourages the snow to slide off quickly. **However! This is not an industrial high snow load building.** We do our best to always point out applications where the capacity of the structure is being compromised. Extra *hoops* are an economical way to increase wind and snow load capacity.

We take pride in the sturdy shelters we manufacture and supply, but must point out that we can not warranty against weather conditions. Snow removal, when occasionally required, is a simple task. Uneven snow loading is deceiving, since the total weight is not a problem but the lateral force can cause the *hoops* to distort.

It is rare to have any significant snow build up on the roofs; however, unless you have built your structure with 2' or 3' hoop spacing, you must have provision for snow removal in certain situations.

DO NOT GO INSIDE A BUILDING WHERE THERE HAS BEEN OBVIOUS STRESS!

Be aware of these scenarios where excessive snow build up is possible and damage could follow:

- A wet snowfall followed by dropping temperatures
- A building 90° to the prevailing wind (drifts could form on the backside of the building)
- A building attached to and situated downwind of a taller building (significant drifting)
- A building 90° to another building that has a higher roof, could cause a surge in snow weight when the snow on the upper roof slides off

Preventative measures for excessive snow build up (where possible):

- Build structures in-line with the prevailing wind
- Build structures level from side to side to create uniform shedding
- Do not attach your building to a larger existing building
- Install a heat source to melt the snow



Economical additions to increase your structure's snow resistance:

- Install cable or tubular *cross-ties* at each pair of *hoops*, to create a triangle (when using cables there is no need to put them under tension)
- Place wooden or metal support posts under the ridge. These can be suspended from the ridge with no more than 1/2" ground clearance. This will provide support as soon as there is load and structure movement will not dislodge your supports.
- Use closer *hoop* spacing for the first 12' section away from another bigger building

Pointers for removing snow:

- NEVER remove all the snow from one side and then the other
- Remove the snow off the top of your building before using a machine (snow blower, etc) along the sides
- Use a padded piece of 1x4 wood on a pole (create a "T" shape) as the best tool for **gently bumping** the inside of the cover

BEWARE of this sequence which creates a "worst case scenario": Freezing rain, followed by dropping temperatures, Significant amount of snow followed by rainfall. It is easy to triple the weight of the snow load in 30 minutes.

