

RG&E consumer news



Damage From Snow Accumulation on Roofs Can Be Averted

By Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Accumulation of heavy snows on your roof can cause serious damage when the temperature drops below the freezing mark. The present record cold spell in the Rochester area has resulted in damage to home interiors caused by melting snow. This may seem paradoxical, but the explanation is quite simple.

The damage results when large amounts of snow, piled up on roof tops, begins to melt and the water cannot flow off the roof due to ice blockage at the gutter or overhang. Normally, any heat loss from the house or heat from the sun will melt snow off the roof. But under present conditions, in which the accumulated snow has not had time to melt due to the abnormally low temperatures, the upper layer of newly fallen snow acts as an insulator which retains the escaping heat. This causes the snow nearest the surface of the roof to melt and the water to flow towards the gutters, where it freezes once in contact with the frigid air. When this ice build-up is not melted or physically removed, a blockage occurs. This, in turn, forms a pocket of water (melted snow) under the upper layer of new snow. Lacking the normal escape route, the water will seep under flashing near dormers or back up under roof shingles, and leak into the house through the ceiling and walls.

roofing contractor, house painter or some other party who is accustomed to working at unusual heights and has the proper equipment and know-how to do the job correctly. It is advisable to have this work done before warm weather arrives.

You can act to prevent this type of damage in the future by adding additional insulation in the attic or installing electric heat cables along the gutters roof edge or downspouts. The addition of attic insulation is the best long-term solution. Heat cables can be effective in some applications, but they should be installed only in warmer weather, and if several cables are required, they can be expensive to operate.

If you have questions, fill out and send in the coupon on this page.

Conservation Checklist

- Keep garage doors closed, especially if attached to house.
- Clean furnace filters, and have heating system checked to be sure it's operating properly.
- Close drapes when sun isn't shining.
- Close registers and doors for rooms that are not used.
- Close registers in basement area if basement is not being used.
- If you do not have storm windows, or if they do not fit tightly, fasten sheet of clear plastic on inside of window frame.
- Caulk air leaks around window and doors from the inside, and on the outside when temperature is suitable.
- Do not cover registers or air vents with drapes or furniture.
- Place rugs up against the bottoms of doors.
- If fireplace is used, maintain a hot fire. Put metal enclosure in front of fireplace opening while leaving fireplace damper open upon retiring. Enclosure should fit tightly so that room air will not be drawn into fireplace. Glass enclosures are available with movable dampers.
- Put a blanket over free-standing radiators in rooms that you are not heating rather than shut off radiator valve. Without water circulation, pipes can freeze under certain conditions.
- Be alert to the possibility of causing structural damage or water pipes to freeze when reducing temperatures.

Conservation Efforts Must Continue - Insulation Will Help

If precious supplies of natural gas are to be available to last through this year's heating season, we must all continue practicing conservation efforts in every possible way.

Heating is the single greatest use of energy in your home. When you reduce the amount of energy used for heating, you will conserve energy and lower your fuel bills.

In addition to maintaining temperatures no higher than 65°F during the day, and no higher than 60°F during the night, one of the best ways in which to conserve energy is to add adequate insulation in your home. Insulation is simply a material that is resistant to heat flow, and should be used wherever the flow of heat needs to be minimized.

Heat always moves from warmer to cooler areas; and it moves through solid objects such as walls and floors. This is called heat loss and refers to the amount of heat that moves out of a home. Insulation slows down this heat loss. Thus, by adding insulation in the attic, basement, and to exposed walls, you can make a significant reduction in your energy consumption.

Approximately 80% of the homes in this area are underinsulated. Some older homes may not have any insulation at all. Adding 6 inches of insulation in your attic alone could cut as much as 15% of your fuel costs.

There are many types of insulation available. RG&E's Consumer Information Center, located on the main floor at 89 East Avenue, is now featuring some of the different kinds of materials that can be used. Our Residential representatives will be available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to assist you in choosing insulation that will best serve your specific needs.

Some forms of insulation can be installed easily and economically by the homeowner. A complimentary copy of our booklet, "If You're Underinsulated, You're Over-spending on Fuel," is available at your request. This booklet will advise do-it-yourselfers on the proper methods of installing various types of insulation materials.

Stop in or send for a copy today, and see how you can reduce the amount of fuel used in your home.



Insulation booklet available for "do-it-yourselfers."

"Use and Care" of Appliances

RG&E's Home Service Department has scheduled demonstrations on the proper use and care for some of the major appliances in your home. Inefficient use and care of your appliances can

result in wasted energy, higher fuel bills, and costly service calls. These demonstrations are designed to help you get the best results out of your appliances.

Use and Care of Washer/Dryers will be held from 12-1 p.m. on Monday, February 14; and at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 15.

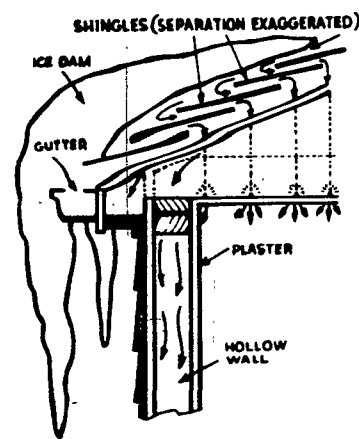
Use and Care of Gas and Electric Ranges will be held from 12-1 p.m. on Monday, February 28.

These demonstrations will be held in the basement auditorium at 89 East Avenue. If you would like to attend any of these, please fill out and return the coupon on this page. Or you can call 546-2700, extension 2617, to make your reservation. There is no charge or obligation.

Keep Those Garage Doors Closed and Help Save Energy

You probably never thought of your garage door as an energy saver. But it is. Especially if there are rooms above or adjacent to your garage. Actually you might consider your garage door as a storm door. It helps reduce the infiltration of cold air to the inside of the garage, which lessens the heat loss from warmer interior rooms. By reducing this heat loss you not only save energy and money, but you also can increase the temperature of adjacent rooms.

It might be worth taking the time to check the frame around the garage door for any cracks or holes that might cause cold air to infiltrate.



How Ice Formation At Gutters Causes Leaks

To prevent damage, the ice blockage at the gutter level must be removed. This is generally a difficult task, since it involves several hours of working in freezing temperatures at one or two story heights. We recommend that you do not attempt to do this work. Instead, we suggest that you call a tree surgeon,

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-46
Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
546-2700

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Town _____ Zip Code _____

Page 4
AYER ONE UIET
TOWN!
Canal site
ria-infested
engineering
cing by the
transformed
bility into an
itained it to
ipping.
e would be
anama today
the Panama
price of
dependence
was, in fact,
nal Treaty of
oked by the
paper are:
tment in the
including its
stimated at
n from 1904
his has been
ly territorial
er known to
J.S. repaid
om whom
d \$25 million
ntirely and
the United
nal accounts
of Panama's
product.
er, a priest, in
l Catholic
7, asks what
had in mind
ew treaty. "If
was wrong,
the new deal:
oney back 2.
al. 3 Return
olumbia, not
his silly
erves not to
sly.
i. F. Newberry
Azalea Road
er, N.Y. 14620.
Action
Her
n the path of
ome of our
nd sisters, in
sonal power,
a divisive
presentation
for a watered
on of the
ngion, often
to the
s of the
ce, the laity
confused and
easy prey to
olic sentiment
media. With
vantage has
ately in the
ogatory car-
ontiff
Call to Action
nue to follow
its teachings
to faith and
Ethel E. Sercu
Apt. 46-B
n Knolls Drive
ochester, N.Y.