

Winter Flat Roof Problems Can Turn Costly

Wolf River Construction Shares Prevention Tips for Homeowners and Property Managers

ISANTI, MN, UNITED STATES, February 18, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As winter conditions intensify across the Midwest, Wolf River Construction is urging homeowners, property managers, and commercial building owners to pay close attention to flat roof drainage issues that commonly arise during cold weather. Left unaddressed, these problems can quickly escalate into costly repairs, interior damage, and even structural failure.



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Winter flat roof issues often start small but can turn into major emergencies.

Proactive maintenance and proper design are the key to preventing leaks, structural stress, and unexpected repair costs.”

*Vladimir Marchenko,
President of Wolf River
Construction*

Flat roofs are particularly vulnerable in winter due to snow accumulation and freeze-thaw cycles. When melting snow refreezes, it can form ice dams that block drainage systems, leading to standing water—also known as ponding. This excess water and ice places significant stress on roofing systems and can cause long-term damage.

“Winter flat roof issues often start small but can turn into major emergencies if ignored,” said Vladimir Marchenko, President of Wolf River Construction. “Proactive maintenance and proper design are the key to preventing leaks, structural stress, and unexpected repair costs.”

Common Winter Drainage Problems on Flat Roofs

- **Ice Dams:** Heat escaping from a building can cause snow to melt and refreeze at roof edges or inside drains, blocking water flow and forcing moisture back under the roofing membrane.
- **Ponding Water:** Water that remains on a roof for more than 48 hours—often due to poor slope, debris, or frozen drains—can freeze solid, adding dangerous weight and accelerating roof deterioration.
- **Frozen Drainage Systems:** External scuppers, gutters, and downspouts can freeze, causing

water to back up beneath roofing materials.

- Structural Damage: Heavy snow and ice buildup can exceed a roof's load capacity, leading to sagging or, in extreme cases, collapse.

Consequences of Snow and Ice Buildup

- Membrane Tears and Cracks: Repeated freezing and thawing causes roofing materials to expand and contract, leading to leaks and shortened roof lifespan.
- Interior Leaks: Trapped water can penetrate seams and roof penetrations, damaging insulation, ceilings, and interior finishes.
- Drainage System Failure: Ice expansion inside drains and pipes can cause cracks or complete failure of drainage components.

How to Prevent Major Winter Roof Problems

Wolf River Construction recommends several proven strategies to protect flat roofs during winter:

- Inspection throughout the year: Flat roofs should be inspected at least once per year for residential properties; twice or more frequently for commercial roofs. Be sure to inspect in the fall due to the debris that is produced then.
- Maintain Proper Roof Slope: Installing tapered insulation helps direct water efficiently toward drains.
- Keep Drains and Scuppers Clear: Clear debris before winter and monitor for ice buildup throughout the season.
- Ensure Proper Insulation and Ventilation: Keeping the roof surface cold helps prevent premature snow melt and ice dam formation.
- Practice Safe Snow Removal: Use roof rakes or professional services, avoiding metal tools that can puncture roofing membranes.
- Install Heat Cables: Heat cables around drains and in gutters help prevent freezing and water backup.



Winter Can Cause Flat Roofs to Leak



Flat Roof Inspections Prevent Serious Damage

Wolf River Construction also reminds property owners that professional inspections after heavy

snowfall or freeze-thaw cycles can identify hidden issues before they become emergencies.

Serving communities across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, Wolf River Construction provides [expert roofing, restoration, and emergency services](#) designed to protect homes and commercial properties year-round.

For more information, winter roof inspections, or emergency service, call 763-402-8228 or visit wolfriver.construction.

About Wolf River Construction

Wolf River Construction, where local craftsmanship meets innovation through its partnership with Wolf River Electric, is a community-driven company focused on building, restoring, and improving homes and commercial spaces for the future. Combining modern construction expertise with renewable energy solutions, the company delivers projects that are built to last, energy efficient, and tailored to each customer's vision. From roofing and restoration to custom builds and solar integration, Wolf River Construction is committed to craftsmanship, sustainability, and long-term value.

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