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EMERGENCY-RESTORATION.COM

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1401 EAST 14 MILE RD.
TROY, MI 48063

Ice-Dam Risk Calendar for Southeast Michigan

November: Early Preparation & Prevention

Risk Level: ● Low to Moderate

As temperatures start dipping below freezing, early preparation makes all the difference.

Key Actions:

- Schedule a roof and gutter inspection before the first major snowfall.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts to ensure water drains freely.
- Seal attic air leaks and check for adequate insulation.
- Trim back overhanging tree branches that can deposit debris or shade roof areas.

Watch For: Condensation or frost inside attic vents — an early sign of poor ventilation.

 **Tip:** A well-insulated and ventilated attic keeps the roof cold, preventing snow melt that leads to ice dams.



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December: First Freeze, First Risks

Risk Level:  Moderate to High

With regular freeze/thaw cycles beginning, snow accumulation becomes a concern.

Key Actions:

- Keep roof edges clear of snow after major storms.
- Consider installing roof heat cables in historically icy areas.
- Check for icicles forming along the eaves — an early indicator of ice dam buildup.

Watch For:

- Water stains on ceiling edges or upper walls.
- Gutters filled with ice rather than snow.

 **Tip:** If you notice uneven melting patterns on your roof, it could indicate attic heat loss that needs sealing.



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January: Peak Ice-Dam Formation Period

Risk Level: ● High

January brings sustained sub-freezing temperatures and heavy snow cover.

Key Actions:

- After each snowfall, safely remove snow from 2–3 feet near roof edges using a roof rake.
- Inspect attic temperatures — it should stay within 5–10°F of the outside temperature.
- Check for roof leaks or ceiling drips following sunny days (a sign of melting trapped water).

Watch For:

- Persistent icicles despite cold weather.
- Ice forming under shingles or in gutter corners.
- Ceiling discoloration or peeling paint.

 **Tip:** Avoid using salt or ice melt directly on shingles — it can corrode gutters and damage roofing materials.



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February: Freeze-Thaw Fluctuations

Risk Level:  **Moderate to High**

February often alternates between warm daytime highs and freezing nights, the perfect conditions for repeated melting and refreezing.

Key Actions:

- Continue clearing snow after each storm, focusing on eaves and valleys.
- Inspect your attic weekly for damp insulation or water stains.
- Schedule a mid-winter roof inspection if you've experienced ice dams before.

Watch For:

- Leaks appearing during sunny days.
- Warped or stained drywall near windows or rooflines.

 **Tip:** Heat escaping from bathroom vents or chimneys can melt roof snow even when outside temps remain below freezing.



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March: Thaw Season and Damage Check

Risk Level: ● Low to Moderate

As daytime temps rise, lingering ice dams may release trapped water into walls and attics.

Key Actions:

- Inspect your roof for damage caused by heavy snow loads.
- Check attic insulation for dampness or mold growth.
- Schedule a spring maintenance inspection with a local ice dam repair specialist in Troy, MI.

Watch For:

- Sagging gutters or missing shingles.
- Moldy odors or discoloration inside upper walls or ceilings.

💡 **Tip:** Early spring inspections are the best time to plan insulation upgrades or ventilation improvements before next winter.



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April: Post-Winter Recovery

Risk Level: ● Low

With the cold season fading, April is the time to assess and repair any damage caused by winter's freeze-thaw cycles.

Key Actions:

- Schedule a roof tune-up to replace damaged shingles and check flashing.
- Inspect your home's foundation and basement for water intrusion.
- Document any recurring roof or gutter ice issues for next year's improvements.

Watch For: Cracks in foundation walls or basement moisture — a common side effect of repeated freezing and thawing.

 **Tip:** Prevent next winter's ice dams by addressing attic insulation and air leaks now, before summer heat sets in.



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Ice-Dam Risk Calendar for Southeast Michigan

When to Call a Professional

If you notice persistent icicles, roof leaks, or ceiling stains, it's time to call Emergency Restoration for ice dam repair in Troy, MI. Our team serves Oakland County and Southeast Michigan, providing:

- Safe ice dam removal and roof de-icing
- Emergency water damage cleanup
- Attic insulation and ventilation solutions

Don't wait for the thaw — stop winter damage before it starts.

If you're located in Southeast Michigan and need assistance with water damage, contact the professionals at Emergency Restoration in Troy, Michigan.

Address:

1401 East 14 Mile Rd.
Troy, MI 48083

Phone: (248) 299-4500

Website: <https://emergency-restoration.com>