



**Says ...**

## **PREVENTING ICE DAMS**

**Ice dams occur when melted snow on the upper section of the roof refreezes in the gutters and at roof edges, building a “dam” of frozen ice and snow. Additional snowmelt builds up against the dam until it eventually leaks into a home causing extensive damage. Icicles hanging from the roofline of your home may indicate the potential for ice dams and ice damage. Follow these tips to help prevent the problem:**

- Avoid having a “warm attic” by insulating the attic floor. Professional insulation companies can install the recommended type and thickness. Have the contractor check for areas where warm air may be flowing into the attic – around chimneys, exhaust fans, plumbing and ceiling light fixtures.**
- If you have had roof leaks, make sure all damaged insulation is replaced.**
- Your attic should have adequate ventilation that provides a continuous flow of cold air through the attic. Soffit-to-ridge vents running along the length of the house are often the best solution. The attic temperature should be only a few degrees warmer than the outside air.**
- Keep the area around drain pipes open so ice will not accumulate.**
- When replacing a roof, check with the contractor about the latest systems to prevent ice dams.**

 **Benefits  
Insurance  
Wealth Management**

**PO Box 4509**

**St. Johnsbury, VT 05819**

**Office:**

**802-748-1200**

**800-639-1908**

**[www.nfp.com/poulos](http://www.nfp.com/poulos)**