

# Sechrist Construction and Remodeling, Inc.

Phone — 398-3507

Fax — 398-3509

Website — [www.sechristconstruction.com](http://www.sechristconstruction.com)

Jan-Feb 2021

## WHAT COMES DOWN MUST GO . . . AWAY

The winters in Pennsylvania can be long and arduous, so appreciating the season can take some effort. About this time every year many are anxious to see their bare sidewalks again and feel the warm sun across their face. A lot of snow has fallen this year and what comes down must go . . . AWAY! During the first thaw, which is right around the corner, the ground is still frozen, so water will run across the surface instead of seeping into the ground. This makes our homes more susceptible to water intrusion and associated damage. Are you prepared for the spring thaws?

Plan ahead. Here are a few tips to help prevent damage from all that water:

- Dig snow out of window wells, egress exits and basement exterior stairwells (including any drain areas)
- Remove any snow a few feet away from outside doors, and dig a path for water to flow away from your home
- Be aware of ice dams, try to clear gutters and downspouts and prepare drainage paths away from your home for areas where roof runoff is likely to occur
- Move valuables out of the basement to a higher floor
- Homeowners who experience basement flooding each year with the spring thaws should check their sump pump to make sure it is operational before the season begins. If you are in a problem area get a back up sump pump. Choose a battery powered sump pump if the electric might go out.
- Call a professional to handle any basement flooding or moisture issues that may ensue during the thaws.



Don't be standing out in the cold! Have you had frozen pipes or water leaks from ice jams on the roof this winter? Dealing with a disaster in your home is overwhelming. When your home is damaged due to water, fire, mold or other trauma, you may be stuck wondering how you should proceed. **Sechrist Fire and Water Restoration to the rescue!** We are your local service providing 24/7 support in emergencies. We handle the rapid clean up from your disaster, gather evidence, get estimates, deal with the insurance adjuster, negotiate to get you the most claims money, and help you rebuild, restore or upgrade your home afterward. Emergency to restoration, we got you covered!



# Email the Expert

Q —A large band of ice has formed above the edge of my roof and created some heavy icicles. The weight of the ice is starting to pull the gutter loose. Is there anything I can do to get rid of the ice before it tears up the gutter or falls on someone?

Tim

A— What you are describing is an ice dam. It's a very common occurrence for older homes that experience cold and snowy winters. An ice dam is the result of snow that melts and refreezes on an abnormally warm roof. When the air inside an attic is warm, that warmth can transfer through the roof and begin to melt the layer of snow, which in turn causes droplets to run down the roof. The droplets refreeze at the overhang area because they aren't receiving any warm air from the attic.

The key to long-term protection lies in preventing ice dams before they occur. Remove snow from your roof and lower your home's attic temperature to prevent heat transfer from the attic to the roof. Since you are already dealing with one, here are some techniques for removing ice dams. After a heavy snowfall, rake the lower three to four feet of your roof. Add attic insulation to stop the transfer of heat through the roof, which triggers the thaw/freeze cycle. It will also keep heat inside your home. Seal all interior air flow leaks in the attic also. To melt an ice dam use calcium chloride, ice melt. Fill long socks with granules and tie off their ends and place over the ice jam. It will melt a tube-like channel through the ice dam, which will allow additional water that melts to run safely off the roof.

Do you have a question you would like to ask? EMAIL THE EXPERT by sending your question to [steve@sechristconstruction.com](mailto:steve@sechristconstruction.com). Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question.



Remember when a snow day meant sledding followed by hot chocolate and a cartoon binge? No wonder we would try anything-and we do mean anything-to get it to snow.

- ◆ Sleep backward with your feet at the top of your bed and your head at the bottom
- ◆ Eat ice cream the night before
- ◆ Perform a snow dance next to the freezer
- ◆ Brush your teeth with your opposite hand and sleep with one sock on
- ◆ Wear plastic bags over your socks and in your shoes the day before you would like it to snow
- ◆ Place a white crayon on the windowsill
- ◆ Sleep with a spoon under your pillow that you put in the freezer first
- ◆ Wear your pjs inside out and backwards
- ◆ Shake a snow globe every time you walk past one
- ◆ Be stocked up on food

## GOING SKI-DOOING



Joseph-Armand Bombardier was born in Valcourt, Canada in 1907. From an early age, he combined his talent for tinkering with a passion for machines. As an adult, he contributed his inventing skills to the war efforts by producing 7-passenger vehicles with a wheel/track system which would later be used in most of his produced vehicles. In his spare time he researched and developed vehicles that could travel on snow. Joseph dreamed of developing a small personal vehicle that would transport 2 people over the remote, snowy landscape of Canada. In 1959, he and his son christened the invention of the Ski-Dog, meant to be a replacement

for the dogsled. In creating their first sales brochures, the printer accidentally made a typo, thus, the Ski-Doo name was born. Bombardier found customers among rural travelers in the eastern province of Canada that had these transportation needs. However, the success of his invention came from the recreational rider, leading to massive production of snowmobiles. "Going ski-dooing" became synonymous with the riding of **all** makes of snowmobiles.

## West Branch Susquehanna Builders Association

### Home Show

April 9-11, 2021

Lycoming Mall, Bon-Ton Location  
Muncy, PA



On average, there are around 105 snowstorms a year that hit the US. A snowflake begins to form when an extremely cold water droplet freezes onto a pollen or dust particle in the sky. This creates an ice crystal, building new crystals—the six arms of the snowflake. Each snowflake is made up of 200 ice crystals which are clear in color.



Its winter and we are all bundled up inside. During this isolation period we have no excuse not to be exercising and staying fit. If you are out of shape, follow these easy directions for better fitness:



Begin with a five-pound potato bag in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides, hold them there for a full minute, and then relax. After a few weeks, move up to ten-pound potato bags. Then try 50-pound potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag. —Beverly Gross

## WOOD YOU BELIEVE?

Who knew ultra-durable top rails could look this good? While wood railings remain a popular option, more consumers are choosing aluminum railings—not only for their durability and minimal maintenance requirements but also for their ability to complement a variety of architectural styles and design preferences. This type of railing is well-suited for both interior and exterior settings. Wood Grain Top Rail offers the organic look of wood while meeting AAMA 2604 coating specifications for superior impact and weather resistance, and color retention. The top rail can be mixed with any frame color and matched to the wood on a deck to create a truly seamless look.



What's a dream home without the perfect view? If your idea of a welcoming space is open, expansive views and lots of natural light, you should consider incorporating stainless steel cable railing into your deck, stairs and other outdoor and indoor spaces. Traditional wooden balusters or pickets can obstruct vision, hinder floor and make nearby spaces feel closed and isolated. Cable railings utilize thin, yet very supportive, steel cables instead of larger wooden spindles and pickets, providing a more open aesthetic. Offering clean lines and unhindered views, cable railings widen one's field of vision and help to preserve the natural beauty of any location.



When its time to reimagine your living space, consider cable railing. Both indoors and out, it offers longevity, versatility and beautiful views. From rustic to contemporary, cable rail is compatible with a wide range of architectural styles. It can be used in conjunction with existing wood, metal or composite railings to achieve unique looks. You will love the simple, yet stylish looks as cable railing creates continuous spaces—allowing rooms and outdoor areas to breathe.

# Sechrist Construction and Remodeling, Inc.

5265 West Route 973 Hwy. • Cogan Station, PA 17728

Phone: 570-398-3507 • Fax: 570-398-3509

[www.sechristconstruction.com](http://www.sechristconstruction.com)

Serving all of Clinton  
and Lycoming  
Counties

## CREW

Steve Sechrist  
Charlie Diffenderfer  
Sara Hart  
David Lehman  
Anthony Lorson  
Logan McAndrew  
Kevin Snyder



**Check out our Website:**  
**[www.sechristconstruction.com](http://www.sechristconstruction.com)**

### FROM THE DESK:

The sun rises earlier in the morning now. That means that spring is almost here, have faith because its coming!

We have had some great inside projects this winter to keep us warm and engaged in our work—kitchen remodels, new home finishes and bath remodels. As we round the corner to spring we will be starting several new projects which include building houses, whole house remodels and additions.

Thank you for being our valued customer. You are the reason we do what we do and we appreciate you.

Steve

### Ingredients:

6 potatoes, peeled/cubed  
1 carrot, grated  
1 onion, chopped  
1/2 C chopped gr. pepper  
2 T chopped seeded jalapeno pepper  
3 C water  
2 T, plus 2 t beef bouillon granules  
2 garlic, minced  
1/8 t pepper  
2 lbs ground beef  
1/2 lb mushrooms  
2 T butter  
5 C milk, divided  
6 T flour  
1 16 oz package, Velveeta, cubed  
Crumbled Cooked Bacon



### Cheeseburger Paradise Soup

In a Dutch oven, bring the first 9 ingredients to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, cook beef and mushrooms in butter over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add to soup. Stir in 4 cups milk; heat through. In a small bowl, combine flour and remaining milk until smooth; gradually stir into soup. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat; stir in cheese until melted. Garnish with bacon.



**GREEN TIP:** Do you know that you can recycle an old refrigerator or freezer? If your appliance still works and is between 10 and 30 cubic feet, call PPL. They offer an appliance recycling service. Schedule a free pickup and get a \$35 check from PPL for recycling.