



2 In case of natural disasters

2-3 Heavy snow/extremely heavy snow

Snow builds up between December and March in the cold regions of Japan, particularly in the regions of Hokuriku and Tohoku that face the Sea of Japan, and Hokkaido. Depending on the year, it can build up to "extremely heavy snow" more than 5m in height. Accidents can happen whereby wooden houses are crushed under the weight.

(1) Protecting yourself from heavy snow

If you live in the "snow country" consisting of the regions of Hokuriku and Tohoku that face the Sea of Japan, and Hokkaido, it is essential to take everyday countermeasures against snow. When you leave the house, you should wear slip-proof shoes, as far as possible have both hands free when you walk, and be careful not to fall. It is important to be diligent about snow clearing. However, the majority of fatal accidents that occur through snow are caused by falls when clearing snow off the roof. When clearing snow from the roof, take measures to prevent falling such as life lines, anti-slip grips and fixing the ladder in place, and avoid doing this task alone. When you are clearing snow away from around the house, be aware of the risk of snow falling from the roof.

(2) Driving in snow

It is safer not to drive when there is snow on the roads. However, if you must drive, be aware of the following points.

- 1 A point to remember when driving is to operate the accelerator, brake and steering wheel slowly. Suddenly advancing or applying the brakes sharply is dangerous.
- 2 Chose roads that are wide and have a large amount of traffic.
- 3 If you are driving for a long time, inspect the battery at a gasoline station etc.
- 4 Studded tires are standard when driving on roads with snow, but putting studded tires on the two drive wheels only is extremely dangerous. When putting on studded tires, please be sure to put them on all four wheels. If you are using tire chains, the general rule is to attach them to the drive wheels only.