



01/16/2020

Hightunnel Winter Maintenance Memo

To prepare your Hightunnel for the winter season here are a few things we recommend to help prevent damage or failure to your Hightunnel.

❖ **Watch snow loads on your Hightunnel:**

If you have consecutive days of snow fall without sun, the Hightunnel will not be able to shed snow properly. You will need to shed it manually. You can do this by grabbing a few towels and duct taping them to a rope. The rope needs to span the width of the Hightunnel plus about 10 feet. Throw one end over the top of the Hightunnel. With a person on each side holding the free ends of the rope, walk the length of the Hightunnel while pulling the rope back and forth across the top of the Hightunnel, doing a see-saw motion with the rope to shed the snow. The towels will pull the snow down off the top and somewhat off the sides.

❖ **Snow buildup on sides:**

Do not let snow build up higher than the wiggle board on your Hightunnel. Snow on the sides of your Hightunnel causes static pressure and is a major strength factor when a new snow storm arrives. The additional pressure on the sides and new snow on top can cause a collapse. Please be mindful of the snow loads on the sides as well.

❖ **Keep side bars down:**

Having the side bars up reduces the elasticity of the steel due to the reduced temperature, making them brittle, stiff, and prone to catastrophic failure. In order to maintain adequate temperature and structural integrity for your Hightunnel during the winter, the side bars need to be down. This allows the metal to flex with snow load without collapsing. If you are not going to grow in your Hightunnel during the winter and do not want to worry about snowload, take the plastic off and store it for the winter along



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one of the sides. If you are going on an extended vacation and live in an area where heavy snows are possible, get someone to watch your Hightunnel for you and shovel or remove snow from the top if there is a need.

- ❖ **Most Hightunnels can hold about 18” of snow on the top without a problem. However, if you already have 12 - 18 inches up there and get a 2ft snowfall, it can exceed 30psf depending on snow density, and it can fail.**

For any questions or concerns about our product, you can contact us using the information below.

RR Hoophouses

Tel: 801.210.9395

E-mail: info@rrhoophouses.com