

## Additional Greenhouse Tips:

- Be sure to Seal Up Your Greenhouse During All Storms for Lower Risk of Damage
- Wash Your Greenhouse Film Annually with Soap and Water for Longer Film Life
- Shade Cloth will Drastically Help Keep You Greenhouse Cooler on Warmer Days
- Boost Your Soil Each Year with Worm Castings and/or Mushroom Compost for Bigger, Healthier Crops
- Keep a Roll of Poly Repair Tape Close for Unexpected Film Damage
- Remove Shade Cloth in Colder Weather to Keep Your Greenhouse Warmer.
- Drain Your Irrigation System Before Freezing Weather

Please visit [www.growerslearning.com](http://www.growerslearning.com) for more tips and information.



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***Greenhouse Winter Care***



## Why do I need to prep my greenhouse?

Greenhouses are a great way to extend your growing season and/or grow year-round. However, your greenhouse will need to be properly prepared for the winter months to withstand ice and snow storms. Heaters are highly recommended. Heaters are your first line of defense. A warm greenhouse will make the snow melt quickly as it lands on the greenhouse. High Sidewall and Low Sidewall Greenhouses are even more susceptible in wintery conditions. We will show you a few easy and effective ways to insure a safe and reliable greenhouse workplace. **Remember, the best time to prepare for winter is before the bad weather hits.**

## Do Not Let This Happen To You!



## Heating Your Greenhouse

Heaters will help melt the snow as it lands on the greenhouse. You have a several options for heating your greenhouse. You can use natural gas, propane, wood or electric heat for your greenhouse. We offer propane and natural gas heaters that are specifically designed for greenhouses. You can also use a kerosene or diesel style “torpedo” heater, but you will need to make sure to vent the heater properly. **All gas and wood burning heaters will have to be vented properly as well.** We highly recommend heating your greenhouse in the colder months.

## Removing Snow and Ice

The common rule among most greenhouse manufacturers for snow load performance is if you have around 8 inches on top, it needs to be removed. However, the weight of snow and ice will vary depending on the moisture content. So, we are going to lower this to 4 inches of snow and a ½ inch of ice. **If you get either 4 inches or more of snow or a ½ inch of ice, you need to remove it immediately.** To remove the snow, we use large push brooms with extended poles. From inside the greenhouse, you will gently tap the film upward, starting in the middle and working your way out to the sides until the film is clear of all or most snow and ice. Be careful not to puncture the film by hitting the film too hard. If you are using Shade Cloth, this needs to be removed before winter. Shade Cloth will retain a lot of moisture and will make it extremely heavy. So again, it will need to be removed. Also, be aware that overnight snow storms are when most damage will occur. You will need to keep watch over the greenhouse during this time. **Once again, heaters and bracing are highly recommended in these conditions.**

## Removing the Greenhouse Film

If you are not using your greenhouse in the snowy and icy weather, you can simply remove the greenhouse film from the greenhouse. This will insure that no damage will occur to the structure. This is not always the easiest option, but it is ideal for smaller greenhouses that are not in use. Beware that installing and removing film can cause premature film damage from the wiggle wire.

## Greenhouse Bracing

After heating the greenhouse, one of the more effective ways to prepare for snow and ice is to brace the greenhouse. This is simply using wooden 2x4 or 4x4 posts or metal tubing (we can supply for you) to put up at least every 3 bows to strengthen the greenhouse. You should place a concrete cap block on the ground everywhere you want to use a brace (Again, we suggest ever 3 bows). Then, you will cut a “V” notch in the top of the post and place the notch at the purlin/bow intersection. You will cut the brace to fit very tight between the cap block and the purlin/bow intersection. This will strengthen the greenhouse substantially and protect the greenhouse for higher snow loads. Higher snow precipitation areas may need closer bracing. You can remove the bracing after winter storms have passed. See example photo below. Please feel free to call us toll-free for more information about bracing your greenhouse @ 1-866-928-3390.

