

How much does a cubic foot of snow weigh?

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Ken Hellevang, from the University of North Dakota says:

"The weight of snow varies greatly. Light fluffy snow may only weigh about seven pounds per cubic foot. More average snow may weigh 15 pounds per cubic foot and drifted compacted snow may weigh 20 pounds or more..."

Let's figure this out...

There are 7.48 gallons per cubic foot of water - that's about 62.4 pounds.

For Wet Snow

Let's say wet snow would be equivalent to 1" of rain or 5" of snow, you would get a resulting $62.4/5 = 12.5$ pounds.

For Light, Fluffy Snow

Let's say fluffy snow would be equivalent to 2.5" of water and 12" snow, you would get $62.4/12 = 5.2$ pounds.

Note: There are comments associated with this question. See the [discussion page](#) to add to the conversation.

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(Amd) **1608.2 Ground snow loads.** Ground snow loads to be utilized in determining the design snow loads for roofs shall be as listed in Appendix K. See Section 1608.3 for application of minimum design snow loads.

(Amd) **1608.3 Flat roof snow loads.** The flat roof snow load, p_f , on a roof with a slope equal to or less than 5 degrees (0.09 rad) (1 inch per foot = 4.76 degrees) shall be calculated in accordance with Section 7.3 of ASCE 7-02. The calculated value of p_f shall not be less than 30 pounds per square foot. The calculated value of p_f without the 30 pounds per square foot minimum requirement shall be used to determine partial loading effects, unbalanced snow loads, snow drifting loads and snow sliding loads in accordance with Sections 1608.5, 1608.6, 1608.7 and 1608.9.

(Amd) **1608.4 Sloped roof snow loads.** The snow load, p_s , on a roof with a slope greater than 5 degrees (0.09 rad) (1 inch per foot = 4.76 degrees) shall be calculated in accordance with Section 7.4 of ASCE 7-02. The value of p_f used in such calculation shall not be less than 30 pounds per square foot. The calculated value of p_f without the 30 pounds per square foot minimum requirement shall be used to determine partial loading effects, unbalanced snow loads, snow drifting loads and snow sliding loads in accordance with Sections 1608.5, 1608.6, 1608.7 and 1608.9.