

Understanding Snow Load Requirements for Central Oregon Homes

In Central Oregon, snow isn't just a winter aesthetic—it's a massive weight that your home must support. Building codes in La Pine are very different from those in Bend or Redmond. Here's what you need to know about "Snow Load" before you build.

What is Snow Load? It is the downward force on your roof caused by accumulated snow. In our region, this is calculated in pounds per square foot (PSF).

Local Variations (The 2026 Standard):

- **Bend/Redmond:** Generally requires 25–35 PSF.
- **Sunriver/La Pine:** Because of higher elevation and "lake effect" moisture, requirements often jump to **60–80 PSF or higher**.
- **The Cascades:** If you are building closer to the mountains, requirements can exceed 100 PSF.

Why Professional Drafting Matters for Snow Loads:

1. **Drift Loads:** Wind often blows snow against a wall or a higher roof section. This creates a "drift load" that can double the weight on one specific part of your roof. We design your framing to handle these imbalances.
2. **Rafter Spacing:** A "standard" 24-inch spacing might work in the valley, but in La Pine, we often specify 16-inch or even 12-inch spacing with engineered trusses to prevent roof collapse.
3. **Moisture Weight:** Central Oregon snow is often "heavy" and wet. Our designs account for the specific density of local precipitation.

The Bottom Line: Don't use a generic floor plan from the internet. They are rarely designed for Central Oregon's heavy snow requirements. We ensure your home is engineered for the specific elevation of your lot.

Oregon Drafting and Design Company - Oregondraftinganddesign.com

oregondrafting@gmail.com