

Make Sure You Are Ready for Winter

If possible, remove vehicles from streets to allow crews to push snow to the curb. City Code prohibits parking in the turn-a-round area of a cul-de-sac until snow is cleared.

When clearing driveways, make sure the snow is not pushed into the street. This is covered by City Code and violators can be cited. It is an operational hazard that crews sometimes plow snow back into driveways when pushing snow to the curb.

City Code requires sidewalk snow/ice removal within 48 hours of the conclusion of a snow event. This means bare surfaces, regardless of how much snow falls or ice accumulates. Property owners who fail to do this can be cited and the City will do the work by contractor and charge the resident.

Sump pump discharge should not run over sidewalks and freeze. De-icing chemicals must be used to control the problem. Residents can be cited.

The City standard for snow/ ice control is bare pavement everywhere on public streets within 18 hours following the cessation of snowfall from an average storm of 4-6". Alleys are the last priority and will be accomplished, unless successive snow events require City assets to be employed on main streets continuously.

Residents who have a fire hydrant near their property are required to shovel the area around the hydrant and keep it clear at all times. Mailboxes should also be cleared.

Salt Application Tips

The more snow you can remove manually, the less salt you will need and the more effective it will be. Whether you use a shovel or snow blower, start early and keep up with the storm. You may decide not to use salt.

Salt is used because it can decrease the freezing point of water. Pavement temperatures are usually warmer than air temperatures. Most salts stop working at 15°F. You can use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice. Be patient. Just because you don't see salt on the road doesn't mean it hasn't been applied. These products take time to work.

More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (an average parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. Consider purchasing a hand-held spreader to help you apply a consistent amount. Sweep up extra. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Use this salt or sand somewhere else or throw it away.