

Snow Removal Tips

During the winter when it snows, there are several things that you should keep in mind to improve the safety of your property and the community. Below are some tips to keep in mind when the snow falls.

Sidewalks

While not legally obligated, residents and businesses are asked to help keep sidewalks safe. Please consider clearing snow off the sidewalks in front of your property so that all pedestrians, especially school children, those with disabilities and the elderly, may walk securely.

Ways you can help:

- Start a neighborhood team to help shovel snow for elderly and those unable to shovel.
- Volunteer to use equipment you may have such as small snow blowers for a community removal effort.
- Shovel snow into the yard instead of into the street to minimize the problem of the snowplow covering your driveway with snow after you've just shoveled it.

Stormdrain Snow Removal

Keep the openings of storm drains clear of snow and debris to help alleviate potential flooding and to protect the environment. At no time, however, should a resident attempt to enter a storm drain to remove debris.

Property owners are responsible for driveway culverts and structures that are not public storm drainage system structures. Storm drains outside rights-of-way and easements are privately maintained by the property owner.

Fire Hydrant Snow Removal

Ask neighbors to adopt a fire hydrant and clear snow and ice away from all hydrants so that they are easily visible in the event of a fire. Snowfall, combined with the snow plowed from roadways, often bury fire hydrants under a large amount of snow, thus making them difficult to find and use. Should there be a fire nearby, precious time is lost as firefighters work to locate hydrants and shovel snow away before hoses can be hooked up to them. And in a fire, time is critical and every second counts. The extra minutes that a firefighter spends digging out a hydrant can make a big difference in how quickly a fire can be extinguished and damage limited.

Don't let your neighborhood hydrant remain "undercover". We are asking that you help us by keeping the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business clear of snow. Snow should be removed about three-feet (3') away from the hydrant in all directions and a pathway cleared between the hydrant and the nearest roadway. Exercise caution when shoveling because of the potential for vehicle traffic nearby. Do not stand in the street and be careful not to slip and fall out into the roadway. Residents also are reminded that parking is prohibited within 15 feet of a fire hydrant located along the curb line or edge of any public or private roadway.

Roof and Deck Snow Removal

- Residents should watch for falling snow and ice from their roofs, but should not attempt to access their roofs to try to clear the snow due to the safety concerns of slipping off the roof and exposure to electrical wires.
- Clear the areas around downspouts and roof drains so that melting water has a path to flow away from the house.
- Clear snow and ice away from exhaust vents that go through the exterior walls.
- Decks can be cleared of snow to reduce the stress to these structures, although they are designed to support the snow load.

Accessible Parking Snow Removal

Residents and businesses should make sure that all parking spots identified as accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities are cleared of snow and ice.