



Safe Sidewalks & Snow Shoveling Safety

Transportation Division

Snow Removal on Sidewalks

Snow Shoveling Safety

The National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely.

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter
- Push the snow rather than lifting it
- If you do lift, use your legs, not your back
- Take frequent breaks and drink water
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion

Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately. Then call a friend or neighbor to help make safe passage on your sidewalk and driveway.

City resources are stretched to capacity during winter storm events. Snow removal on driveways, wheelchair ramps and sidewalks is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge of adjacent property, in accordance with The Dalles Municipal Code 5.04.080.

- First priority: sand and/or shovel sidewalks adjacent to their homes or businesses. Safe passage should be cleared within the first two hours of daylight each day. Citizens are asked to pile shoveled snow on private property, not in the street.
- Second priority: help a neighbor clear the sidewalk in front of their home. Snow that has accumulated on cars that are parked on city streets should be removed so that City plow operators will see the parked car
- While you are shoveling snow from your sidewalk, also clear stormwater catch basin grates of ice and other debris to allow melt water to flow from street gutters into the stormwater collection system. Melt water can cause localized flooding or refreeze and cause a slip hazard if the catch basins are blocked.

If you need help with meeting the snow removal requirements, call a contractor or contact a volunteer organization.

City Snow Removal on Sidewalks

When first priority snow removal from streets is complete, City crews will remove snow from designated sidewalks as listed in the Snow Response Plan.

Safe Sidewalks & Snow Shoveling Do's and Don'ts

Do: Shovel all sidewalks and stormwater catch basins adjacent to your property.

Do: Shovel the full width of the sidewalk to bare pavement.

Do: Remove ice from sidewalks. Only use pet-friendly, child-safe, salt-free deicer.

Do: Sprinkle a little sand on the sidewalk to prevent slipping on frosty sidewalks

Don't: Shovel a sidewalk only on one side of your property if you live on a corner lot.

Don't: Shovel only one shovel width on the sidewalk or leave any snow on the sidewalk.

Don't: Sprinkle rock salt or other deicers that cause damage to cement.

Don't: Pile snow in the street or block stormwater catch basins.



Snow Shoveling Checklist

- Plan where you will pile snow so you don't have to move it twice.
- Make sure your shovel is in good repair. Spray your snow shovel with cooking spray so snow won't stick.
- Use a stiff broom to sweep snow off of porches and decks.
- Wear layers of loose clothing so that as you warm you can remove each layer.
- Put on waterproof gloves with a good grip.
- Get into waterproof boots with good traction.

Safe Sidewalks for Students on School Bus Routes

When school is in session the City prioritizes plowing on school bus routes. Citizens who live on school bus routes are asked to prioritize shoveling snow from sidewalks on school bus routes to make sidewalks safe for students. Check the North Wasco County School District 21 Transportation Department webpage for more information about school bus routes.

To view the Winter Weather Response Plan visit the City website at thedalles.org/transportation or call Public Works office at (541) 296-5401.