

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY



The goal of the City of Waterloo Public Works Department is to provide snow and ice control in a safe, timely and cost-efficient manner to the citizens of the City.

1. The City of Waterloo has approximately 60 miles of streets and 65 cul de sacs. Snow plows will make two passes on each city street. Each pass will be 8-10 feet from the center line for a total of 16-20 feet wide.
2. City plows could make several trips down your street in the attempt to keep it clear. This may result in snow being thrown back into your driveway after you have shoveled it. This is unavoidable, and if possible, please wait until the snow has stopped and the plows have completed removal of snow in your area before you clear your driveway. This will eliminate the need to shovel your driveway more than once.
3. Many times the Public Works Department receives calls regarding snowplow trucks depositing snow at the end of driveways or in front of mailboxes. Attempts will be made to keep excessive amounts from accumulating; however, this is a reality of snow plowing, and it cannot be helped.

If our roads are to be plowed, the snow must be pushed to the side of the road and each driveway will receive a certain amount of snow. It is not practical for a snowplow driver to straighten the blade, lift the blade or maneuver the blade to prevent snow from accumulating on residential property.

4. It is also possible the snow coming off the blade could damage or knock down mailboxes. If a City plow or truck damages a mailbox either through direct contact or due to the force of the snow rolling off the plow, the City will reimburse the homeowner a sum of \$50.00. The City cannot replace decorative mailboxes.
5. Due to their narrow width, the City will not be responsible for plowing alleys* as this causes snow deposits on (and potentially causes damage to) adjacent structures such as garages and fences.

*This does not include Rear Oak or Rear Elm due to homes located in those areas.
6. The City will not be responsible for removal of any snow or ice from any sidewalks within the city. It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep driveways and sidewalks cleared of ice and snow.
7. The City will clean the uptown business district starting at midnight until 6:00 AM. Please try to find alternate parking at that time in order for the crews to complete the plowing.

It is the City's overall goal to clear all of its roadways of snow accumulation over two inches from primary to residential streets within a 12-hour period after the snow fall has completed.

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-Page 2-

How Residents Can Help

- Please park your car off-street whenever you can. During snowfall or when snow is predicted, it is especially important to remove all vehicles from the street to allow the operation of snow removal equipment. Cul de sacs are the most time-consuming areas and are made even more difficult by cars parked on the street.
- Do not push or place snow in the street, in front of a neighbor's property or on top of storm drains. Be careful not to block the fire hydrants when you shovel snow.
- Please make sure that basketball goals and other obstructions are not placed in or adjacent to the street. They pose a hazard to snow plowing crews and to the traveling public.
- Owners of private parking lots are responsible for removing their own snow. Do not expect City crews to pick up piles of snow pushed onto the street from private parking lots. The snow pile could remain for an extended period causing potential safety hazards and the possibility of liability for the property owner.
- Property owners are responsible for cleaning their driveway approaches and around mailboxes. Snow plowing operations may inconvenience property owners when snow is plowed in front of driveways or by mailboxes. However, we cannot respond to requests to clear driveways or mailboxes – our priority is keeping roads open for emergency service providers.
- If you have a neighbor who is unable to remove the snow from their driveway or in front of their mail boxes, please assist them, as the City does not have the resources or the manpower to clear drive approaches or mail boxes.

The City of Waterloo would like to thank the residents for their patience and cooperation during the snow removal process.

Adopted by City of Waterloo Utility Committee on 2-11-09.