

We'll do our part to keep streets passable...

Public Works chemically treats all major arteries within three hours of when snow begins, plows main arteries during all stages of a storm, and clears all streets and the sidewalks bordering city property once a storm has ended. City staff and contractors also clear over 18 miles of sidewalks, including those around schools, public buildings, parks and high volume bus stops.

... please do yours.

When Parking

Check for snow emergency "No Parking" signs.

- Four parking garages around the city provide free, off-street parking during declared snow emergencies: the CambridgeSide Galleria mall in East Cambridge, the First Street garage on Spring Street, the Green Street garage in Central Square, and Harvard University's 52 Oxford Street garage.
- Please park at least 20 feet from the street corner so plows can push snow away from crosswalks.

When Shoveling

- When digging out your car, think about how you pile snow: don't create new problems in the street or on the sidewalk.
- Please don't take it personally if the plows push snow back into your driveway or onto your parked car. This is really unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.
- It is illegal to "reserve" cleared parking spaces; objects left in on-street parking spaces will be removed.
- Think safety: dig out fire hydrants and street drains.

Reach Out To Neighbors

- Are there neighbors on your street who are elderly, have a disability, or may have difficulty shoveling for any reason who you could help?
- Work with your neighbors to ensure your entire block is safe and accessible for all!



For more information and resources, please visit cambridgema.gov/snow

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City of Cambridge Department of Public Works

Working Together

We can keep sidewalks free from snow and ice



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It's the neighborly thing to do...

Icy and snowy sidewalks are a challenge for all of us. And for the elderly and people with disabilities, wintertime travel can be more than just difficult: it can be dangerous or next to impossible. We all have a shared responsibility for keeping our community safe and accessible during the winter months.

... and it's the law.

The Cambridge Municipal Code requires all property owners to:

1. Remove snow from all sidewalks next to their property or business within 12 hours after the snow stops falling during a daytime storm, and before 1 p.m. when the snow has fallen during the night.



- Shovel your sidewalk on all sides of your property, down to the bare pavement.

- Make a path wide enough for a wheel chair or stroller (at least 3 feet, preferably 4 feet wide).
- Clear ramps at corners and crosswalks.



- Keep street drains clear of snow.
- Do not assume that a small amount of snow will melt away. It may turn into ice instead.



2. Remove all ice within 6 hours of the time it forms.

- Stock up on ice melter and/or an ice chopper before a storm.
- Calcium chloride (CaCl₂) is the best choice for the environment, and only a small amount is required. Potassium chloride (KCl) is OK too. Avoid rock salt (NaCl or sodium chloride), which kills plants and trees.
- Do not use sand. It makes hard ice more slippery, gets into street drains and is expensive to clean up in the spring.

- Remember that even a small amount of ice can lead to dangerous falls.

The fine for failing to comply with the City's sidewalk clearance ordinance is \$50 per violation per day. Even if you are on vacation or are an absentee landlord, it is still your responsibility as the property owner to ensure that someone clears sidewalks and ramps next to your property.

To report unshoveled or icy sidewalks for inspection by the City, visit www.cambridgema.gov/snow or call 617.349.4903.

Low income households who are elderly or have a disability may qualify for the City's Snow Exemption Program (in which case the City will shovel your sidewalk). For income guidelines and to apply, call the Cambridge Council on Aging, 617.349.6220 (voice) or 617.349.6050 (TTY).

If you do not qualify, the Council on Aging can provide you with a limited list of professional snow removal companies and a list of students who want to earn money by shoveling – you contact the party yourself and negotiate a price.

Let's Keep Cambridge A Walking City All Year Long