

City Department Updates

Snow & Ice Control



Each winter season, Nanaimo Public Works is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,100 lane kilometres of city streets to keep them in a safe condition.

Priorities

- To plow and maintain major roads, including emergency routes during winter events.
- To plow and maintain through roads first and then cul-de-sacs and dead ends.

Residential areas will be plowed within 96 hours unless snow and icy conditions return crews back to major roads. Snow and ice control vehicles have assigned routes that they are required to maintain during snow falls.

Due to weather conditions and temperatures, the City can't always provide bare roads. When traffic has packed the snow, a salt and sand mixture is used to help traction. Salt is not effective below -6 Celsius, but at temperatures above -6 Celsius, the salt on the road will activate and melt the ice.

The City's snow and ice control priorities were developed from input with:

- City of Nanaimo Council and Staff
- RCMP
- Regional District of Nanaimo Transit
- Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Nanaimo/Ladysmith School District

Sidewalks

The City clears sidewalks around parks, bridges and major City facilities. When you consider the length of sidewalks in our community, it becomes too costly to perform this service for all areas.

City Bylaw 5000, Section 22 (1) requires snow to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours by the property owner or occupant.

We understand that it can be difficult to remove the snow on your sidewalks. Our West Coast snow is often very heavy and wet, but by removing the snow, you are ensuring the safety of pedestrians. Be a good neighbour. If you notice your neighbour is having a difficult time clearing their sidewalks, why not offer to help if you can?

It can be frustrating when the plow driver deposits snow into your freshly shoveled area. Please keep in mind that the plow cannot be lifted or stopped at each driveway as it passes. You can help cut down the amount of snow in the roadway by not shoveling or blowing your snow into the street. Try to keep the snow to the sides of your driveway.

Other Points to Remember

- Listen to your local radio stations or check out the City's website and social media sites for updates during extreme weather conditions.
- The City does tow vehicles when required to ensure routes are clear for emergency and vehicular traffic during a snow event. To find out if your vehicle has been towed, call the RCMP at 250-754-2345.
- Help us maintain your streets. Where possible, park in your driveway to allow the street to be plowed to its whole width. Where this is not possible, try to park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd days and the even numbered side of the street on even days. Keep your vehicle as close to the side of the road as you can to allow equipment to make it by your vehicle.

Have questions or suggestions?

**Please contact the
Public Works Department at
public.worksinfo@nanaimo.ca or
250-758-5222**