



# Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

## Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks



CITY OF WARREN - BUILDING CODE DEPARTMENT  
318 W. Third Avenue, Warren, PA 16365 · (814) 723-6300 · [www.cityofwarrenpa.gov](http://www.cityofwarrenpa.gov)

Prompt removal of snow from sidewalks is important in the City of Warren as it helps facilitate safe pedestrian travel in adverse weather conditions. Many people rely on sidewalks in order to conduct their daily affairs and virtually every trip, even those by car, includes some walking, so it's important that sidewalks are cleared of snow in a timely manner.

### **City of Warren Ordinance requires that property owners clear snow and ice from sidewalks within the following times:**

- Within four hours after any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain that ends between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 PM and by 9:00 AM of the following day when any such precipitation ends after 8:00 PM of the previous day in the following areas:
  - Central Commercial District (Downtown)
  - Pennsylvania Avenue between Water Street and South Street
  - Market Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifth Avenue
- By 11:59 PM on the same day when the fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain ends during daylight hours and by 10:00 AM of the day following the ending of any nighttime precipitation in all remaining areas of the City not listed above.
- At least once per day in all areas in the event of a continuous fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain including any subsequent accumulation of snow, slush or ice due to drifting or melting conditions.

### **Additional requirements**

- Sidewalks must be cleared on all sides of the property down to the bare pavement to a width of ten feet or the width of the sidewalk whichever is less.
- Where sidewalks are greater than ten feet in width, the area to be cleared shall begin at the sidewalk edge furthest from the curb line of the street.
- If the sidewalks are located on a corner lot, the sidewalk from the curb line to the main sidewalk shall also be cleared.
- All ice must be removed from sidewalks.
- If ice cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, it must be treated with enough de-icer, salt, sand or other approved anti-skid material to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe until the ice melts or it can be more easily removed.
- The use of hazardous materials, or materials which may cause damage to the sidewalk, is prohibited.
- Snow and ice is not permitted to be placed in roadways, sidewalks, crosswalks, municipal right of ways or within three feet of any fire hydrant.

## Avoid a Notice of Violation

- If the City receives a complaint or discovers that a sidewalk is not properly cleared within the required time period, City Building Code Officials will inspect the sidewalk and give the property owner a warning to have it cleared.  
**Property will owners only receive one warning per snow season before the enforcement process begins.**
- If the sidewalk has not been cleared upon re-inspection, the property owner will be issued a notice of violation giving them twelve hours to clear the sidewalks. If the sidewalks aren't cleared within twelve hour notice, the property owner will be issued a citation to appear before the District Magistrate.
- If a citation is issued and the property owner is found guilty, the maximum fine is \$1,000 and 30 days in jail as determined by the District Magistrate.
- The City may also have the snow and ice removed by a private snow removal contractor and the property owner will be charged a \$25 administrative fee in addition to the contractors fee for the snow removal.
- If the owner fails to pay for this service, a lien will be placed on the property for any unpaid bills.

## Remember

- You are responsible for clearing ice on your sidewalk as well as snow. Ice can be more dangerous and intimidating than snow.
- The sooner and more completely you shovel, the less likely ice will form.
- Arrange for someone to shovel while you are on vacation.
- If there are neighbors on your street who are elderly, have a disability or may have a hard time shoveling for any reason, work with your neighbors to give a hand and ensure your entire block is safe and accessible to all.
- If you own rental property and your tenants are required to clear the sidewalks as part of their lease agreement, as the owner of the property, you are responsible to ensure that sidewalks are kept clear of snow and ice.
- If you wish to report snow and ice on sidewalks, contact the City of Warren Codes Department at (814) 723-6300, ext. 116.