



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

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 six hours after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain:
 - All areas zoned C-1, Commercial (Downtown)
 - Pennsylvania Avenue between Water Street and South Street
 - Market Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifth Avenue
- Within twelve hours after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain from all public sidewalks not included 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

- Snow and ice shall be removed to a minimum width of five feet and must meet the cleared area of adjoining properties so as to provide a continuous five-foot cleared passage. Shoveled snow and ice may be deposited in the area between parking meters and may not be placed in the street.
- If the snow or ice on a sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed without the likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, it shall be treated with enough deicer, salt, or sand to make pedestrian travel thereon reasonably safe within the time stated in prior section (6 hours/12 hours). As soon thereafter as weather permits and as the deicing agent has made removal possible, the sidewalk shall be thoroughly cleared.
- All ice must be removed from the sidewalks.
- Snow and ice are not permitted to be placed in roadways, sidewalks, crosswalks, municipal right of ways or within three feet of any fire hydrant.
- The use of hazardous materials or materials which may cause damage to the sidewalk is prohibited.
- Each fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain shall constitute a separate event. The onset of subsequent precipitation prior to the expiration of the specified time shall not exempt any person from compliance with removal of accumulations occurring as a result of prior events unless the subsequent precipitation is so substantial as to make removal impractical or unsafe.

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 owners will only receive one warning per snow season before the enforcement process begins.
- If the sidewalk is not cleared upon re-inspection, the property owner will be issued a quality of life violation ticket. Each day thereafter that snow and/or ice remains, shall constitute a separate violation. If the condition remains, 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 for any one offense is \$1,000.00 as determined by the District Magistrate.
- The City may also have the accumulated snow and /or ice removed and collect the costs thereof from the owner in a manner provided for by law. An administrative fee in an amount to be established from time to time by resolution of the Warren City Council shall be paid to the City of Warren for each invoice rendered for the costs of said snow and/or ice removal.
- If the owner fails to pay for this service, a lien may 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. 134.