



2017-2018 Snow Plan Summary

A Citizen's Guide to Snow and Ice Control Policy & Procedures

Available Assistance:

For a small fee, the Payette County Juvenile Probation Office offers help with shoveling driveways/sidewalks.

642-6020



When do we start to plow City streets?

Plowing does not typically commence unless there are 3 to 4 inches of snow accumulated on the roadway, or 2 inches accumulated with forecasts of more snowfall.

Call for Info at:

642-6024 or
642-6044

The goal of the City's snow plan is to establish a system of priorities that facilitate keeping winter traffic moving as safely as possible. This summary of the City's snow plan is to inform the public on strategies and procedures developed to meet this goal. With over fifty miles of streets in our City, not all roadways can be given immediate attention. Accordingly, a prioritized system of roadway plowing has been established.

One of the primary objectives of the City's Street Department is to provide a plan for the safe and orderly movement of emergency equipment, vehicle traffic and pedestrians through the

City. A snow plan has been created to meet this objective as we manage street maintenance during adverse weather conditions.

City crews must maintain a disciplined priority system. Keeping major streets open is the City's key priority. By focusing first on major streets, emergency routes are maintained to keep essential services functioning after snowfalls. By following this priority system, in the event of an emergency, police and fire personnel can get to within a few blocks of any home by the way of a plowed major street.



Winter in downtown Payette in 1916.

Photo courtesy of Payette Historical Society

Concentrating our attention first on major streets, emergency equipment keeps moving, gets kids to school and people to work. Please note that sometimes this approach results in a necessary compromise of service to individual residential streets.

Common Problem Areas

Sidewalks:

Snowplows need to go a minimum speed in order to roll snow to the sides of streets. We ask our equipment operators not to push the snow any further than necessary. However, in some cases, the sidewalks are too close to the curb to avoid getting snow on them. It is still the duty of the owner or tenant of adjoining sidewalks to remove snow and ice from such sidewalks in a reasonable timely manner.

Residential Plowing:

A frequently asked question is "When will you plow my street?" We will plow as soon as possible, but remember, major streets are first priority.

"Buried" Cars:

The streets must be plowed and sometimes a parked car will get "buried" by snowplows. Whenever practical, move cars off the street ahead of plowing.

Cul-de-sacs

If the cul-de-sac was designed to accommodate snow storage, or if there is a vacant lot in the cul-de-sac, the operator will plow the snow into that area. If no storage is available, the operator will plow the snow into the middle of the cul-de-sac.



We're on the web!

www.cityofpayette.com

What steps does the City take to determine when to remove snow?

First Step: If the forecast for snow is a 50 percent chance or greater, the City will apply liquid de-icer to intersections, hills and curves. This will provide for the melting of snow for the beginning of the snow event.

Second Step: When 3 inches of snow has started to accumulate on the streets, the plow trucks will plow and sand all of the major streets for the duration of the storm. When conditions allow, additional liquid de-icer will be used.

Third Step: Once the snow has stopped falling, the City will begin the removal of snow from all City streets.

Winter Do's & Don'ts

DO:

- Give snow removal crews the right of way to finish their important job.
- Drive with extra caution during winter months.
- Keep your sidewalk clear of snow and ice as much as practical.
- Allow plenty of room between you and snow equipment.
- Help City crews by not parking cars along any snow routes whenever possible. This will prevent your car from being "buried" by snowplows.
- Take it easy shoveling—it is hard work and has been linked to heart attacks.
- Be a helper—help remove a berm from a driveway or mailbox area for a neighbor who may be unable to do so themselves.

Other Problem Areas:

Private Driveways, Entrances and Mailboxes:

Plowing often leaves a berm of snow across driveway entrances. Berm removal is the responsibility of the residential owner, occupant, community association, or business. The City will try to keep berm creation to a minimum. To reduce the problem of snow being plowed back into driveways, snow should be shoveled into yards rather than the streets.

The City does not clean out driveway berms with a loader after plowing. There are over two thousand driveways in Payette. It would be a very costly and time consuming, and slow the process of snow removal. Also, there could be damage to driveways and equipment attempting to do this. Putting snow from driveways into the city streets creates a hazard for drivers and a liability for the responsible party. Pile snow past the driveway in the direction of travel.

Please advise children to never play near or in berms near the roadway.

Alleys:

The City's snow removal equipment is too large to operate safely in alleys. The City does not generally plow alley ways.

Sidewalks:

To help ensure that sidewalks are safe during winter, City ordinance requires residents to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. A helpful hint for residents on snow routes—clear your sidewalks after the plow has finished plowing to the curb. When removing snow, please remember to not place any snow in the City streets.



DON'T:

- Throw snow into the street when shoveling your driveway.
- Forget to plan ahead for winter. Have your shovels ready, winterize your car and prepare for winter driving with the right tires and chains.
- Expect specialized service. With City resources limited, the focus is on major streets.
- Expect immediate attention to residential or other lower priority streets.

Citizen Input and Complaints:

Snow removal always generates a litany of phone calls. Your constructive criticism is always welcomed.

Contact 642-6024.

