

Snow Clearing Safe Practices

DRESS FOR WINTER CONDITIONS

- Wear warm layered clothing and waterproof boots.
- Gloves work better than mittens for shovel handling.
- Choose moisture-wicking base layers.
- Protect your face and head with a hat, scarf, or face covering.

HYDRATION AND BREAKS

- Dry winter air leads to dehydration.
- Drink water before, during, and after shoveling. Take breaks!

SALT AND SAND

- Use salt and sand on ice.
- Avoid over-application to protect the environment.

SAFETY FIRST

- Wear reflective or high-visibility clothing.
- Use a headlamp or light in low-light conditions.
- Work with a partner when possible.
- If a situation feels unsafe, stop and leave — we'll try later!

SHOVELING BEST PRACTICES

- Push snow whenever possible instead of lifting.
- If you must lift, use your legs — not your back.
- For deep snow, remove the top layer first before finishing the surface.
- Clear one panel at a time, uneven slabs or heaves may be hidden.



Sidewalk Clearing Requirements

City of Minneapolis

Snow Clearers in Minneapolis should be aware of these standards:

- Public sidewalks must be cleared to their full width or at least 4 feet wide, down to bare pavement.
- Salt or sand must be applied when ice prevents complete clearing.
- Corner lots must clear curb ramps and crosswalk connections to the street gutter.
- Garbage and recycling carts must maintain a 3-foot-wide path to the alley or curb.
- Snow must be cleared within 24 hours after snowfall stops for residential properties.
- It is illegal to push or blow snow into public streets or alleys.
- A 3-foot-wide area should be cleared around fire hydrants.
- If a City plow returns snow to an already-cleared sidewalk, it is the Public Works Street Department's responsibility to come back and clear the sidewalk – please notify Public Works if you come across this circumstance.



Thank you for helping maintain safe, walkable winter streets for Minneapolis residents, pedestrians, and transit riders.