



Snow and Ice Policy

View the City of Camas [Snow Plow & Anti-Icing Routes Map](#)

The City currently has four snow plows with solid deicer and sand dispersing capabilities, along with two liquid deicing units to maintain the Priority Routes. Unfortunately, this equipment is not enough to keep all City streets maintained during a sustained snow or ice event.

As such, during a snow or ice event, the City has prioritized the main transportation corridor routes that provide for emergency response service and that help move citizens, goods and services throughout the City. The City's [Snow Plow & Anti-Icing Routes Map](#) identifies Priority 1 Routes (**Red** lines), Priority 2 Routes (**Green** lines), Priority 3 Routes (**Yellow** lines), and the typical Road Closures (**Blue** lines) during inclement weather. All other streets will be serviced during regularly scheduled hours after the Priority Routes have been serviced. Snow and ice removal crews will typically only respond to and treat non-priority routes as dispatched or requested by Police or Fire or in other emergency situations. ***Please do not park on Priority Routes as it makes removal of snow and ice more difficult.*** The City will tow abandoned vehicles that, in the opinion of the City, pose a danger to the mobility or servicing of the emergency routes.

For reference, **the following roads may be closed by the City during inclement weather:**

- NW 23rd Avenue, from NW Douglas Loop to NW Hood Street;
- NW Forest Home Road from NW 10th Avenue to NW Astor Street;
- Division Street from NE 6th Avenue to NE 11th Avenue;
- NE Dallas Street from NE 6th Avenue to NE 14th Avenue;
- NW Dahlia Drive from NW 30th Circle to NW 34th Circle;
- NW Lacamas Lane from NW Jasmine Street to NW Lake Road; and
- NW 44th Avenue from NW Jasmine to NW Lacamas Lane.

The City asks that all citizens be prepared for severe weather in our area. City crews will not be able to plow or de-ice all the roads within the City to maintain full transportation mobility. Citizens should be prepared for extended delays in clearing roads during weather events, especially if you live on a steep neighborhood street. For your safety, the best policy is to stay home if you're not equipped to travel on snow or ice, regardless of whether or not the roads have been cleared or treated by the City. Additionally, there is always the possibility that you

may be without water and/or electricity during a storm event, so always have an emergency supply of food and water on hand. If you have to travel during a snow or ice event, be prepared for winter driving by having a vehicle with 4-wheel drive, studs or chains, and carry a car safety kit. ***Most importantly, know your driving limitations.***

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why doesn't the City plow our neighborhood (side streets) during the storm?

During a storm, the City's limited number of plows and employees are fully utilized to maintain Priority Routes in a passable condition for emergency vehicles and overall mobility City-wide. All other streets will be serviced as crews become available during regularly scheduled shifts. Since each storm is unique, the effects on the streets are prioritized by City staff for each event, and neighborhood streets are plowed considering ability of the plows to be effective, the safety of the plow driver, and the routes for school buses and sanitation collection.

2. How will emergency vehicles drive to my home?

Street crews are in constant contact with both the Police Department and the Fire Department during an inclement weather event. Plows will be dispatched to assist emergency vehicle access into neighborhoods for emergency response.

3. My sidewalk is covered with snow and/or ice. Will the City clear it off?

No, City Ordinance (CMC 12.04.020) states it is the homeowner's responsibility to clear the sidewalk adjacent to their property.

4. Where can I find up-to-date information on snow and ice response, and garbage collection for my neighborhood?

Check the City's website frequently at www.cityofcamas.us under "Latest News" to view current updates for both snow and ice response, and garbage collection.

5. Why did the plow go by my house with the blade up?

There are many reasons a plow operator may have the blade up. Responding to an emergency call, equipment malfunction, operator judgment that plowing will be ineffective or make things worse, and use of tire chains to break up the ice coating to allow for future plowing are just a few reasons.

6. Our street is right off the main road, it would take just a minute to swing in and plow our street. Why don't they plow our street?

During a storm, the limited number of plows and employees are fully utilized to maintain the priority routes in good condition for citywide emergency vehicle and overall mobility. If crews start plowing side streets, it is possible we can quickly lose control of the priority roads, thus impairing emergency response and general mobility. When wrecks occur, or cars are abandoned on the main roads, it becomes extremely difficult to reopen the main routes.

7. What products does the City use on the roadways during a snow and ice event, and are they corrosive?

Prior to a storm, the City may apply a liquid de-icer to the Priority Routes. This product helps reduce the formation of ice and will speed the melting process after the storm. The City may also apply a solid de-icer on the main arterial hills. Both the liquid and solid de-icer are salt products. Due to the expense and corrosive nature of salt, these treatment options are used sparingly. As a last resort, the City may also apply sand. All de-icing products can be corrosive to vehicles, so we recommend that you wash your vehicle after major storms. The City of Camas works to minimize the amount of product applied while still maintaining effectiveness.

8. When you plowed our neighborhood, the City left a bank of snow in front of our driveway. When will they remove it?

The City cannot clear individual driveways. Plow operators make every attempt to minimize the impacts from plowing, but must continue on to plow other Priority Routes.

9. I'm trapped in my home and can't get out. I need to pick up prescriptions and food – I'm out of both. Can someone plow my street?

The City will not plow residential streets that are not on a Priority 1 or Priority 2 Route. Citizens are responsible to be prepared for being homebound during extended periods due to inclement weather. The City recommends that residents network with friends, neighbors, and organizations for support. If you feel it is an emergency, please call 911.