



City of Camas

Snow and Ice Policy

FAQS

During a snow or ice event, the City has prioritized the main transportation corridor routes and the routes needed to provide for emergency response service. 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 emergencies in neighborhoods, and on non-priority routes dispatched by Police or Fire. 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.

The City's Snow and Ice Priority Removal Map identifies the Priority 1 Routes (Red lines) and Priority 2 Routes (Green lines), and the typical Road Closures (Blue lines). For reference, **the following roads are closed by the City by inclement weather:**

- On 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 31st Avenue to NW 34th Circle,
- NW Lacamas Lane from NW Norwood Street to NW Lake Road.

The City has four snow plows with solid deicer and sand capabilities along with two liquid deicing units to maintain over **65 miles** of priority routes, **75 miles** of residential streets.

Be prepared for severe weather reports in our area. City crews will not be able to plow all the roads to maintain full transportation mobility. Citizens are responsible to prepare for extended delays during weather events, especially if you live on a steep neighborhood street. For your safety, the best policy is to stay home. There is always the likelihood 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.

***Please do not park on priority routes as it makes removal of snow and ice more difficult.
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 full utilized to maintain priority routes in passable condition for emergency vehicle mobility City wide. All other streets will be serviced as crews become available during regularly scheduled shifts in order to reduce overtime costs. 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 Police and Fire Departments 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 website at cityofcamas.us home page under "Latest News" frequently 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 using 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 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 when the road surface temperature falls below 38 degrees F, the City may apply a liquid de-icer, magnesium chloride, to the main priority roads. 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. Due to the expense and corrosive nature of salt, this treatment option is 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 plow impacts, but must continue to plow other neighborhoods.

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 one or two route. Citizens are responsible to be prepared for being homebound during extended periods due to inclement weather. Network with friends, neighbors, and organizations for support. If you feel it is an emergency, call 911.