

When snow has stopped falling, it takes an additional 5 to 6 hours to complete the snow plowing operations.

Each plowable storm is assigned our trained employees who operate our plowing and sanding equipment as well as rented equipment operated by area contractors. All work as a team to clear 25 different plow routes throughout the city.

The Public Works Department realizes that it is an inconvenience on the public's part to have driveway openings and walkways obstructed with snow repeatedly during the storm; however, it is necessary to enable safe conditions for all motorists and pedestrians. At a minimum, a plow will make 2 passes in each direction on a street.

Our goal is to remove snow and ice from the streets and roadways as efficiently as possible to enable mobility and safe driving conditions.

You Can Help

Here are some ways that you can help to make a winter storm event easier on both yourself and on the Public Works Crews:

- Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving conditions (snow or all season tires, good wiper blades, a good battery, added weight in the trunk, etc.);
- Allow yourself additional driving time to arrive at your destination;
- Reduce speed (even 4x4's have difficulty stopping on ice);
- Watch for black ice, especially on bridges and overpasses. Always take caution when traveling in these areas;
- Do not drive during storms unless it is absolutely necessary;
- Leave adequate distance, at least 200 feet, whenever following a piece of snow removal equipment;

- When a storm is imminent, please remove vehicles from roadsides, so crews can perform their services effectively. The Public Works Department can perform a more thorough job in a lot less time if vehicles are not parked on the streets and roadways.
- Be patient and courteous. Everyone around you is under the same conditions and stress that you are experiencing.

South Portland's Department of Public Works is committed to removing the snow and ice from streets as rapidly as possible to enable mobility and safe driving conditions throughout the winter months.

We hope that these comments and recommendations will help you and your loved ones make the right choices and have safe winter driving years to come.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

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Follow South Portland Public Works to stay up to date on the latest events, news and announcements, including storm cancellations.



CITY OF
**SOUTH
PORTLAND**
Public Works

WINTER OPERATIONS GUIDE



A Message from the Director:

Winter is always a busy time for the Department of Public Works. With hundreds of miles of streets to treat and plow, our crews work around the clock to provide the safest travel possible throughout the City. This job can be complicated at times by the weather as well as our ability to maneuver around traffic and parked vehicles.

We hope you find our Winter Operations Guide to be a helpful resource that gives you all the information you need regarding the City's winter procedures. As always, we look forward to serving you and wish you a safe winter season.

Melissa Hutchins

Melissa Hutchins, Director of Public Works



Sidewalks

The Public Works Department clears and sands sidewalks on most main streets and some side streets (primarily on school routes). Doing your part to keep sidewalks clear in front of your property helps keep these pedestrian routes safe for your family, friends and neighbors.

The City provides free sand/salt mixture, located at the dead end of the 929 Highland Ave access road. Please honor our 10-gallon limit per visit, and bring your own bucket and shovel. South Portland residents only (no contractors, please).

Driveways

While plow crews try to minimize the amount of snow that is plowed into driveways during a storm; it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear their driveway opening. City ordinance prohibits the shoveling or plowing of snow onto the street and sidewalks.

Winter Parking Ban

A winter parking ban is in effect every year beginning December 1st and ending April 1st. The ban prohibits on-street parking from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m, per Ordinance §15-216.

Also, please note that "no vehicle shall be parked at any time on any public street or way so as to interfere with or hinder the removal of snow from such street or way by the city's plowing or loading and hauling." "The Chief of Police may cause any vehicle parked on any street in violation of this section to be towed away..." §15-217. If your vehicle has been towed, contact the SPPD at 207-874-8575 for info on how to recover it.

For more information on winter parking ban and where you can park please visit our parking ban page [here](#).

Sanding & Salting

The application of sand/salt begins when frozen precipitation begins to fall. All operations begin by sanding/salting the streets and continue until all streets are clear, or it is no longer effective. For ½" to 2" of snow or freezing precipitation, we will continue sanding and salting operations. Main drags and school lots are done first, then secondary roads, then other areas (i.e. bus stops, City building walkways, etc.)

Snow Plowing

At the 2" accumulation mark and greater, we will commence plowing operations. Plowing takes place in the same order as sanding & salting.

Light snow and heavy winds will cause continual drifting and ice buildup. Heavy, wet snow could bring down trees and wires and cause additional equipment strain. Snow turning to rain may cause low areas to flood, which would require immediate attention to eliminate further problems. Trained crews work around the clock during such storms in order to keep roads open and passable.

At the end of a storm, all plow routes are cleaned up and snow is pushed back to maximize travel lane width. The following day(s), snow removal operations commence.

Other Winter-related Services

Other winter related services, which are performed by the South Portland Public Works Department, are:

- Sidewalk plowing (designated areas only)
- Sidewalk sanding (designated areas only)
- Sanding of schools and related areas
- Keep catch basin tops and drainage areas clean
- Public walkways, bus stops and bridges are serviced
- Snow is plowed and removed from publicly owned buildings

General Information

During a storm, the crews plow only travel lanes in order to provide mobility to as many areas in the least amount of time. The crews will return and widen streets at the storm's end.

If you see a truck traveling with its plow up, do not assume the driver is failing to perform his duties. They may be headed for a designated plowing area or en route for fuel or repair.

During snowplowing, Public Works personnel do not have a shift change. If a storm is of long duration, the crews continue to perform their services around the clock until the job is completed.