



The City of Morgantown

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Code Enforcement, First Floor
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City Reminds Residents about Sidewalk Responsibility

Residents are required to clean the ice and snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow event.

MORGANTOWN - Morgantown Code Enforcement Division and the Morgantown Police Department want you to remember your sidewalk responsibilities when the snow starts to fall.

The City is publicizing its Snow and Ice Removal regulations by handing out and posting flyers, which serve to remind residents, homeowners, and businesses of their responsibility to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow event. This year, it also includes snow shoveling guidelines to help residents understand how the plows will work around residents' driveways and sidewalks.

Morgantown City Code 913.11, "Maintenance; Removal of Snow, Ice and Dirt" originated in 1967. The City also takes International Property Maintenance Code 302.3 "Sidewalks and Driveway" into consideration.

The regulations do not apply to personal walkways, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces. However, walkways, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces for rental and business property are required to comply with the 24 hour clean up standard.

The Code Enforcement Division will receive complaints and issue notices to responsible parties if the snow and ice is not removed within 24 hours following the snow event. The notice will provide an additional 24 hours to correct the violation. The Police Department will issue citations to those individuals who fail to take corrective action.

Those unable to remove snow and ice from sidewalks who do not have a neighbor or family member to help should call the Code Enforcement Office.

To report a dangerous location or an area of concern, citizens can go online at <http://com4.govtsystems.com/ReqPMorgantownWV/AnonRequests/Requests.aspx?TopicId=0> and fill out a Request Partner form.

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If you have questions, please contact Code Enforcement office Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. The number there is (304) 284-7401.





Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks in the City of Morgantown

During this time of year, it is important to remind residents and property owners that the City of Morgantown has regulations to keep sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice. These regulations are in place to ensure the safety of all pedestrians in our community from serious injury and life threatening hazards, whether they are mail carriers or school children.

Property owners are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow event. Snow and ice removal from personal walkways, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces is at the discretion of the property owner. However, if these walkways, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces are for rental or business property, they fall within the same 24 hour clean up standard.



Responsibility is not limited only to ice and snow removal. All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces must be maintained free from any hazardous condition including deteriorating concrete to pot holes in the driveway.

These regulations and enforcement measures are provided in Morgantown City Code 913.11 "Maintenance; Removal of Snow, Ice and Dirt" and in the International Property Maintenance Code 302.3 "Sidewalks and Driveways."

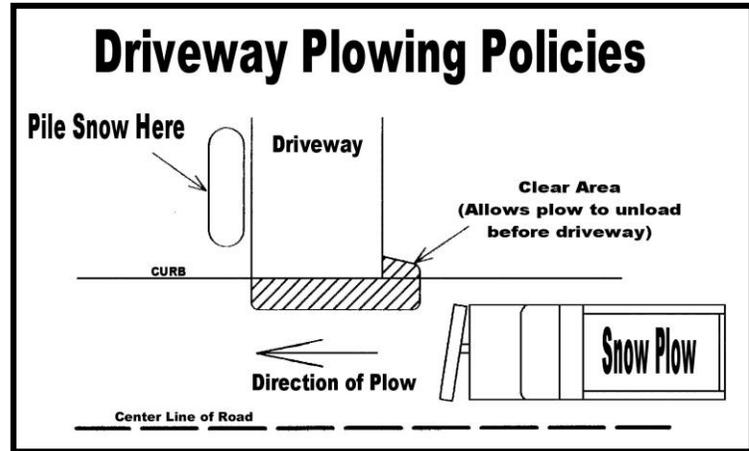


Please be a good neighbor by keeping sidewalks and driveway entrances safe from snow and ice. Also, please offer to help those in your neighborhood who may be less able to shovel their own sidewalks.

If you are physically unable to clear your sidewalk and have no neighbor, friend, or family member that can help please call 304-284-7401 and speak to someone in Code Enforcement.

Snow Shoveling Guidelines

Shown below is a diagram of the City's driveway plowing policies. Abiding by the following guidelines will help make the snow removal process easier, safer, and more effective for all:



- Snow should be plowed or shoveled to the right side of the driveway as you are facing the intersecting roadway. By being plowed away from the direction of oncoming snowplows, this action will prevent the bulk of the snow from being pushed back into the driveway.
- Eliminate snow piles at the driveway entrance, whenever possible. High accumulations of snow will obstruct the vision of motorists when exiting from the driveway and hinder the ability of oncoming motorists to see you pulling out of the driveway, creating another potential for accidents.
- Do not push snow out onto roads. This creates hazardous driving conditions for all vehicles.

Tips to Snow Shoveling

http://www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Documents/Snow_Shoveling.pdf

The National Safety Council offers the following snow shoveling tips:

- If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel without a doctor's permission.
- Take it slow! Shoveling (like lifting weights) can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically; so pace yourself.
- Shovel only fresh snow. Freshly fallen, powdery snow is easier to shovel than the wet, packed-down variety.
- Push the snow as you shovel. It's easier on your back than lifting the snow out of the way.
- Don't pick up too much at once.
- Lift with your legs bent, not your back. Keep your back straight. By bending and "sitting" into the movement, you'll keep your spine upright and less stressed. Your shoulders, torso and thighs can do the work for you.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion. If you run out of breath, take a break. If you feel tightness in your chest, stop immediately.
- Dress warmly. Remember that extremities, such as the nose, ears, hands and feet, need extra attention during winter's cold. Wear a turtleneck sweater, cap, scarf, face protection, mittens, wool socks and waterproof boots.