

Snow Plowing –Frequently Asked Questions

A street near mine was just plowed. Does that mean that mine will be next?

Plow routes in the City of Marshfield are designed taking into consideration arterial and collector streets, streets around schools, hospitals, and hills. Residential streets are then plowed by breaking the routes into sections. Because of this the street next to you may have been plowed but does not necessarily mean your street will be plowed next.

Why did the snowplow bury my sidewalk?

The City of Marshfield does not intentionally bury sidewalks. The plow drivers need to plow at the right speed to put the snow on top of the snow banks. If they plow too slow the snow sloughs off the banks and into the road, narrowing the streets as winter progresses. If they plow too fast the snow goes over the bank and sometimes onto the sidewalks. To add difficulty to this balancing act the area between the curb and sidewalk often times is quite narrow offering little storage area for the snow.

Can you plow my street first in case I have a medical emergency and an ambulance needs to get through?

The City of Marshfield Police Department and Street Division work closely during snow events. If there is an emergency, medical or otherwise, we work together to assure access for all emergency vehicles.

Will I get a bill or a citation if I don't remove the snow & ice from my sidewalk? What if the snow was from the City plow?

You have 48 hours from the end of a snow event to clear your sidewalk, regardless if the snow was deposited from a plow. If you do not remove the snow and ice from your sidewalk within 48 hours the city will come and remove it at your expense.

Why do plows drive so fast that they throw snow all over my sidewalk?

The plows need to drive at a certain rate of speed to get the snow up and onto the snow bank. As a result, some snow may roll up and over the snow bank and fall on to your sidewalk.

Why do I get more snow on my corner lot than others do in the middle of the block?

All of the snow builds/accumulates on the plow as it starts to turn the corner. All the extra snow "releases" from the plow as it completely turns the corner, typically leaving a large pile at the point of the turn. Also, there is more road surface area in an intersection than in a typical mid-block road area which further increases the amount of snow coming off the plow at that point. In addition to the snow at the corner there will also be a larger amount of snow along the curb line until the truck is 50-100 feet down the block.

What can I do about snow plows that block my driveway or mailbox with snow?

This is an unfortunate side effect of plowing all streets in the City. All snow must be plowed to the curb and as a result driveways get blocked with the wet, heavy snow from the plow. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear the snow from the bottom of the driveway and around the mailbox.