

Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance Facts

WHAT IS THE INTENT OF THE ORDINANCE?

In the interest of public safety, it is the duty of every property owner to maintain sidewalks to allow for pedestrian passage. The City of Oswego Code requires that sidewalks adjoining property as well as crosswalks (connecting the sidewalk to the street on corner properties) must be free of snow and ice by no later than 7:00 pm of the day that snow may fall.

DO I NEED TO CLEAN A SIDEWALK ADJOINING A VACANT LOT?

If located within a residential district, sidewalks adjacent to a vacant lot must be maintained by the property owner.

WHAT AREA HAS TO BE CLEARED?

A minimum path of thirty (30) inches wide must be maintained unless the sidewalk is less than 30 inches in width in which case it shall be cleared to its full width.

WHAT CITY DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTING SIDEWALKS AND ENFORCING THE ORDINANCE?

The Department of Code Enforcement located on the basement level of City Hall, 13 West Oneida Street (342-8265), open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. (excluding holidays)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I RECEIVE A CITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO REMOVE SNOW FROM MY SIDEWALK AND I DO NOT COMPLY?

The Department will have the snow removed and the bill will be mailed to you for the cost of the snow removal. An administrative surcharge (not to exceed two hundred fifty (250) dollars) will be added to the snow removal bill.

IS THE ORDINANCE IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS?

Yes, unless a "Snow Emergency" has been declared by the Mayor of the City of Oswego. If this occurs, the ordinance shall be suspended until such time the Mayor rescinds the declaration.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IF I AM PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE?

If you are a residential property owner in need of assistance with snow removal, consider contacting community service groups affiliated with your local schools, churches, fraternal organizations, or scouting groups. For additional help, local telephone book headings include: CONTRACTORS, LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE, and SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

WHAT IF MY SIDEWALK ADJOINS A CURB NEXT TO THE STREET?

In RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS only, as defined by the Zoning Ordinance, a sidewalk that adjoins a curb may create an undue hardship for the property owner. In this case, the ordinance does NOT apply. Please note that properties located in COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS are NOT exempt from the ordinance requirements.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO CLEAR MY SIDEWALK?

No, if you have the ability and means to remove the snow, you are encouraged to do so. Our goal is to provide a reasonable framework for administering this ordinance without creating an undue hardship in residential areas where sidewalks are located immediately adjacent to plowed streets.