

# City of Toppenish Snow Event Policy

Winter can present challenges for all, particularly for those needing to travel on the roads. Compared to local cities like Yakima or Sunnyside, Toppenish often faces unique winter conditions. Toppenish residents can have confidence that your Public Works team is diligently working to address these exceptional winter conditions.



## **Snow Removal from the Streets**

- The City of Toppenish Public Works Department is devoted to maintaining the safety of our streets while operating within budget limitations. Prior to a major snow or freezing rain event, the City will attempt to apply de-icing material on all major arterial streets. Other priority areas encompass streets in proximity to schools, hospitals, and key intersections.
- When snow accumulations reach three inches, the City will initiate plowing on major arterial streets, as well as the streets in the vicinity of schools, hospitals, and other critical locations. Snow will be pushed to the sides of the streets during plowing, vehicles should be moved to facilitate this process.
- Depending on the severity of the storm, it may take several hours to several days for road conditions to return to normal. In the aftermath of the storm, be patient, self-sufficient, and travel only when necessary.
- If you have concerns with the plowing of your street, please call **509-865-4500**.

## **Clean Your Sidewalk**

- Snow removal from sidewalks in front of your home and business is the responsibility of the owner or resident of the adjacent property. The best time to shovel snow is immediately after it falls and before it becomes compacted, and ice begins to form.
- After you clear the sidewalk of snow, you may choose to apply an ice-melting substance. The City of Toppenish recommends use of Calcium Chloride, (sometimes called “hot melt”) rather than Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt) because it is less damaging to sidewalks and plants. Also, it works at a much lower temperature, so it is more effective in freezing conditions.
- If your home or business is at a corner, please remove the snow from the sidewalk ramps so children and other pedestrians can cross the street.

- If fire hydrants exist adjacent to your property, ensure that you clear a three-foot radius around them for your safety.
- If you have one, use a snow blower, and help your neighbors. Make sure you blow the snow into your yard and not the street.

### **Please Don't Take It Personally**

- Pushing snow into a driveway entrance, or alongside parked cars on the street is often unavoidable as city crews work to keep streets passable.
- Don't throw snow from your sidewalk or driveway into the street – it's against the law.
- To avoid having snow covering your driveway from the city plows, shovel your snow to the side of your driveway into your yard and not into the street.

### **Special Assistance**

- If you are senior citizen, disabled, or have other special conditions that makes snow removal hazardous, please call 2-1-1, a free service that connects callers with essential **health and human services** in their community. For further information please visit their website at <https://www.wa211.org/>

### **Other Snow Tips for Residents**

- Put Safety First and drive only if necessary. Dress warmly and be prepared for travel delays. Make sure you carry blankets, flashlights, water, and other emergency provisions.
- Try to keep your vehicle off the street. If you must park on the street, park as close to the curb as possible.
- Don't follow a de-icing spray truck, snowplow, or sanding truck too closely. They may stop suddenly or spray sand, rocks, or other material.
- Do not sled on streets or sidewalks.

### **Contact Information**

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#### **Phone**

509.865.4500