



WINTER READY

#WINTERREADYDC

**DISTRICT
SNOW
TEAM**

WE ARE WASHINGTON DC GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Welcome to Winter

Mayor Muriel Bowser's District Snow Team is ready for winter using new, high-tech equipment and systems! Keeping up with snow removal technology is as critical to our success as keeping the salt domes filled.

This snow season means powering our plows, salt loaders and trucks with smart technology to keep District streets clear. It means pre-treating streets citywide with our brine/beet juice mixture to slow freezing. It also means testing a new material to help reduce the amount of salt needed to make our streets safe.

Although our region averages 14 inches of snow annually, last snow season we got less than an inch of snow, but **in 2016 we got 25 inches in one storm**. This is why we take preparation seriously.

Now, it's your turn. This brochure provides recommendations to help you prepare your family, pets, home and vehicles for a safer, more enjoyable winter.

Please review the **"Community Responsibilities"** section for advice about clearing snow and ice, the exemption from snow shoveling for seniors and people with disabilities, and how to contact **Serve DC** to volunteer to shovel snow for elderly residents and those with disabilities.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) leads the **District Snow Team** with support from the **Department of Transportation (DDOT)**, **Department of General Services (DGS)**, **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)**, **Serve DC** and several other agencies.

Community Responsibilities

When clearing snow/ice from your sidewalk, please shovel it into the treebox or the grassy area next to the sidewalk. If there is no treebox or grassy area, please place snow/ice as close as possible to the curb so that it is away from street traffic and bike lanes.

Residential and commercial property owners and managers are required to clear snow and ice on the sidewalks around their properties. If sidewalks are not cleared within 24 hours after the end of a storm, property owners may receive fines of \$25 for residential properties and \$150 for commercial properties.

Seniors and Disability Exemptions

Residential property owners may be exempt from sidewalk shoveling enforcement if they live in their home and are 65 years old or are disabled. **A resident must apply annually for the exemption, as it will not carry over from one year to the next.** Please call 311 for more information.

Mayor Bowser and Serve DC need your help clearing entryways and sidewalks for our seniors and residents with disabilities. Volunteers are deployed when there are four or more inches of snow. **Visit www.snowteam.dc.gov for the DC Volunteer Snow Team registration link.**



Snow Shoveling Tips

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- If you have a history of heart disease, don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately.

For Your Home

- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected each year.
- Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector.
- Keep an easy-to-read thermometer inside your home.
- Have your furnace system and vents checked by a qualified technician.
- Turn off water that flows through pipes to the outside of your home.
- For pipes inside your home that may freeze, keep cabinet doors open, allow a drip of cold water to flow through a faucet, and keep your thermostat set at 55° or higher.
- Use a snow rake or broom to remove snow from your roof.
- Keep drains, gutters and downspouts free of ice and snow.



For Your Family

- Have a battery-powered radio.
- Keep flashlights and extra batteries on hand.
- Have a sufficient supply of prescription and over-the-counter medications for family and pets to get you through the duration of a storm.
- Check that you have fresh first-aid supplies.
- Have a space heater, heating pads or hand/feet warmers.
- Have a three-day supply of water (one gallon/person/day), stored in sealed, unbreakable containers.
- Keep a three-to-five-day supply of non-perishable canned food in your cupboard along with a manual can opener.
- Check your fire extinguisher and smoke detectors.
- Have pet-friendly deicer, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to clear snow/ice from sidewalks and entryways.
- Have snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

For Your Vehicle

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Check other fluids and replace if necessary.
- When driving, stay 50 feet behind a snow plow.
- Keep kitty litter in your vehicle to provide traction if you get stuck on the road.
- Be sure you have scrapers to clear snow from windows and windshield.
- Maintain a charged mobile charger and connection wire.
- Keep blankets, socks, hats and gloves in your vehicle during the winter months.
- Keep flashlights and fresh batteries.
- Keep bottles of fresh water.
- Keep jumper cables.

Visit: ready.dc.gov/winterwx for more winter preparedness tips.



Visit snow.dc.gov for:

- The latest winter weather closures.
- Winter weather warnings.
- The nearest warming centers.
- Maps of snow plow locations.
- Snow emergency parking information.
- Much more!



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