

SNOW SHOVELING

Wisconsin Statute 66.615 and Chapter 5.08 of the Municipal Code requires all property owners to keep public sidewalks cleared of snow and ice. The sidewalk must be cleared of snow and ice the entire width and length. Wisconsin Statute 66.615 also authorizes the Village to have unshoveled sidewalks cleared and bill the property owner for snow removal costs. If the bill is not paid within 30 days, the bill goes on the tax roll with penalty.

Municipal ordinance states that all sidewalks shall be cleared of snow and ice within **twenty-four** hours after a snow storm. After **twenty-four** hours, the Director of Public Works may cause the sidewalks to be cleared. Clearing will start after consideration has been given to local conditions (amount of snowfall, street conditions, weather reports, etc.).

PLACING SNOW AND WASTE ON VILLAGE STREETS IS NOT PERMITTED

Wisconsin State Statutes 86.01, 86.07, 346.94 and/or 941.03 makes it unlawful to push snow onto or across roads from private driveways. Village Ordinance Chapter 5.11 makes it unlawful to plow or push snow onto the pavement of any public street, road, alley, or highway.

Direct any questions to the office of the Director of Public Works, 608-341-5834, or e-mail at publicworks@ridgewaywi.gov.

WINTER MAINTENANCE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **When will my street be plowed?** It depends on the priority of the street. It could be very soon if you are on a major street or could be up to 12 hours for a small cul-de-sac. If we have continuous snow over a long period of time, it could be even longer. Our goal is to have all roads passable within 24 hours.
2. **Why did you plow snow at the end of my driveway?** This is always a touchy question. The plows are responsible to move the snow off the public street. The property owner has the option to remove all or part of the snow at the end of the driveway as needed for access to the house or business.
3. **Will the Village remove the snow from the end of my driveway?** No. The owner must remove the snow.
4. **Can I put the snow back in the road to have the plows take it somewhere else?** No. It is illegal for owners to place snow back in the street. The fine for a First Offense is \$50.00. The only exception is in the 600/700 Main Street area where owners are allowed to place snow from the sidewalk at the curb for removal.
5. **Where can I park during a snow storm?** The best place to park is in your driveway. If there is no room, the next best place would be a wide street that has alternate side parking or a village lot available for public parking.
6. **Do I have to shovel my sidewalk?** Yes. You are responsible to keep the entire width and length of the sidewalk free of snow & ice. This includes shoveling out to the cleared portion of the street at intersections. The Village will have a contractor shovel snow for any owner that does not comply within 24 hours after the snowfall has ended. There are no notices or courtesy calls. One way you can help is to throw the snow from the sidewalk back into the yard. It will clear the walk, plus leave more space between the sidewalk and curb for the snow plows to remove snow from the street. It will also minimize the amount of snow that may be pushed back onto the sidewalk.
7. **What will you do about a damaged mail box?** If you have a mail box that meets US Postal Service guidelines (6" behind the curb) and we damage it, the Village will attempt to repair the box/post or provide \$30 to the affected resident per village ordinance 5.14. If your mail box is in violation of the guidelines and is hanging out beyond the curb and it is damaged, it will be your responsibility to replace it. Please check it now to make sure it is behind the curb. Postal service guidelines are available on the village website and from USPS.
8. **What if my lawn is damaged by snow plows?** In the spring, the Street Department will look for obvious areas that were damaged and repair them. If you notice something, please call the Village Office at 608-924-5881 or email info@ridgewaywi.gov so we can check it out and if we damaged the lawn, we will fix it.