

How can the public be of assistance to the snow removal crews?

- Do not place snow from private property onto the road or sidewalk.
- During or following snow storms, park your car off the street if possible.

Does the City tow vehicles?

Yes, the City does tow vehicles from time to time. This is done to ensure routes are clear for emergency and vehicular traffic. Residents that leave or abandon their vehicles during snow storms and obstruct traffic flow can expect their vehicles to be towed without warning. To find out if your vehicle has been removed by the City, call the RCMP at 492-4300.

What does the City use to create traction on the roads?

The City uses salt, salt/sand mix, and straight sand to ensure the roads are safe for winter driving.

- Salt is used throughout the core of the City as it is fast acting and extremely effective in our weather conditions.
- Salt/sand mix is used in the higher elevations and agricultural areas. The higher areas generally have more snow and cooler temperatures, sand/salt mixtures are more effective in these conditions.

How does the City regulate the amount of salt and salt/sand mix placed on the road?

The trucks applying salt & salt/sand mix are equipped with onboard computers allowing the operator to select an exact amount of salt required to overcome the current/forecasted weather conditions. The computer controls an auger and spinner that automatically speeds up or slows down to compensate for the ground speed of the truck to ensure the selected amount of material is placed on the road.

The rates that salt & salt/sand mix are applied, are based on temperature, forecast and snowfall, as well as experience and guidelines from various snow removal manuals.

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Quick Facts

Snow and Ice Control

Discover more about the Snow and Ice removal process



Does the City Have a Prioritized Snow Removal Program?

Yes, the City of Penticton has a prioritized snow removal program.

Areas are cleared according to the following priorities:

First Priority:

- Main Routes (Arterial & Collector Roads)
- Steep Hills
- Roads Servicing Emergency Routes
- Bus Routes – Major

Second Priority:

- Collector Roads
- Main Industrial Routes
- Minor Transit Routes
- School Zones

Third Priority:

- Residential Streets
- Industrial Side Streets
- Lanes (serving primary access to multi-family developments)

It can take us up to 48 hours to clear the residential streets and cul-de-sacs from the time it stops snowing. If snow falls again within that time, crews must return to streets with higher priority. Understandably, this lengthens the response time for residential streets and cul-de-sacs and is the prime cause of inquiries on snow control.

What equipment is used for Snow Removal?

The City is equipped with the following snow removal equipment:

- Five large trucks equipped with plows & sanders
- Three one-ton dump trucks with plows & sanders
- One loader
- One grader
- Miscellaneous sidewalk equipment
- Liquid anti-icing equipment

Why doesn't the City clear sidewalks of snow?

When you consider the City's combined length of sidewalks is greater than 130 km, we simply do not have the resources required to provide this level of service within a reasonable time frame.

The City does clear sidewalks around parks, bridges and City owned properties. The *Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 2012-5030*, states every owner or occupier of any building or premises including vacant lots shall clear the sidewalk of snow and ice before 11:00am.

May I place the snow from my driveway in the travelled portion of the road?

No, the placing of snow on the traveled portion of the road is not permitted under the City's Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 2012-5030. This regulation helps to ensure that potentially dangerous situations for motorists are avoided.

Why can't the City remove snow they put in my driveway?

When you consider the large number of driveways in the City, we simply do not have the resources to provide this level of service within a reasonable time frame.

Remember, when shoveling your driveway to always pile the snow on the left side of the driveway (facing the property), this will give you a better line of vision of the approaching traffic and when our plows go by, we will not drag your shovelled piles back into your driveway entrance.

Why not plow snow to the center of the road, away from sidewalks and driveways?

Plowing snow to the centre of the road is called windrowing. The City does not use this method because:

- Windrowing down the centre of the street blocks left-hand turns at many points, creating safety concerns and frustrating motorists.
- As the size of the windrow increases, it encroaches into the traveled lanes creating potential safety hazards for motorists. If the snow persists, it would impact the parking on the side of the roads.
- Eventually, windrows would have to be removed, increasing snow control costs and decreasing the program's snow plowing productivity. In addition, it is difficult to dispose of snow because of the problems created when it melts in the spring.