



# sanitation

## Snow Removal: Your Responsibilities

### *A Guide for Homeowners, Property Managers, Businesses & Residents*

- Prepare in advance for the snow season by getting the necessary equipment, including a good snow shovel and ice melt or material to help with traction.
- If you live on a private street, get together with your Homeowner Association (HOA) and make sure there is a plan for snow removal.
- Know what is too much for you. Pace yourself when cleaning snow because it can be a physically-intensive and strenuous task. In cases of heavy snowfall, you may want to consider hiring a service or a person to clean the snow from your sidewalk or driveway.
- If you can, look in on and help your neighbors who are elderly, disabled, or otherwise homebound.

#### **Who is responsible for cleaning snow and ice from the sidewalk?**

According to the NYC Administrative Code, every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any lot or building must clean snow and ice from the sidewalks adjacent (i.e., in front of, on the side of, in back of) to their properties.

#### **How long do I have to clean the sidewalk?**

If the snow stops falling between:

- 7:00 a.m. and 4:49 p.m. - you must clear within four hours
- 5:00 p.m. and 8:59 p.m. - you must clear within fourteen hours  
*Example: If the snow stops falling at 7:00 p.m., the owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person in charge of any lot or building has until 9:00 a.m. the following morning to clear.*
- 9:00 p.m. and 6:59 a.m. - you must clear by 11:00 a.m. the next day

#### **What is the best way to clean snow from the sidewalk?**

Remove snow along the sidewalk adjacent to your property. **Do not** push snow from the sidewalk into the street. Clear the snow from around the fire hydrant if there is one in front of your property. **Do not** cover crosswalks with snow. You should move the snow to your front yard, behind the stoop line, or to the grassy curb strip if one exists.

Where possible, try to clear a path at least four feet wide along the sidewalk. Corner property owners should clear a path to the crosswalk, including any pedestrian ramps, and where the snow has melted and creates a puddle, disperse the water away from the crosswalk. This will help people in wheelchairs, people with children in strollers, students going to school, and individuals with mobility-assistance devices.