

Winter Driving Tips

1. Motorists are advised to practice defensive driving and exercise caution at all times.
2. Before beginning your trip, check the current road conditions and weather forecast.
3. Be prepared for changing road conditions. Store a backpack or kit in your car with an ice scraper, jumper cables, a first-aid kit, and blankets.
4. Keep a full tank of gas in your car during winter driving conditions.
5. Keep a safe distance when following other vehicles.
6. Use caution when approaching traffic signals, crosswalks, and stop signs; **watch for pedestrians** and allow for extra time and distance when stopping.
7. Proper snow tires should be part of your fall/winter driving maintenance schedule.
8. Listen to your local radio stations during extreme weather conditions for road closures and weather updates.

Did you know?

Every winter season Nanaimo Public Works maintains approximately **1,500** lane KMs of City streets.

Suggestions or Questions?

The **Public Works Department** is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. They also have a 24/7 after hours standby service. **During major snowfalls, please call only if it is an emergency.** You can contact us via:



250-758-5222



public.worksinfo@nanaimo.ca



SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

Snow and Ice Control

During the winter season, the City of Nanaimo focuses on maintaining good winter driving conditions on emergency routes and all major roads (priority 1 routes) and secondary routes (priority 2 routes).

As long as it is snowing, crews will be focused on clearing priority 1 and 2 routes, which means it could take upwards of 96 hours for crews to start cleaning residential areas (priority 3 routes).

Priority Routes



1) Emergency routes and all major roads

2) Secondary roads

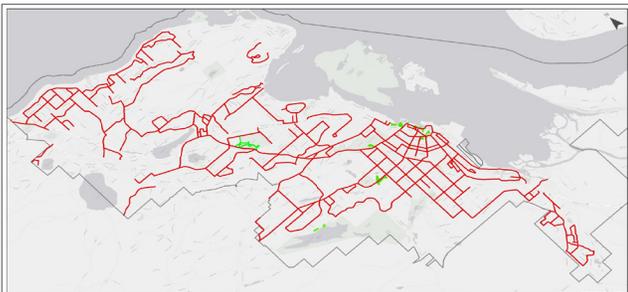


3) Residential areas (culs-de-sac and dead ends)

This is so that emergency vehicles and main travel routes that are crucial for transportation remain open.

City staff also maintain public access to City facilities by clearing sidewalks, parking lots, bridges, the Seawall and E&N trail.

Once it stops snowing, crews turn their focus to residential areas. If priority 1 routes need maintenance due to poor conditions, crews are re-deployed to work on these routes.



Frequently Asked Questions

Does the City tow abandoned vehicles during a snow event?



Yes. This is to ensure routes are clear for emergency vehicles and vehicular traffic. To find out if your vehicle has been towed by the City, call the RCMP at 250-754-2345.

When will my street be plowed?



Clearing emergency and all major routes is the City's top priority during a snow event. This is so that fire, police, and ambulance can respond to public safety and emergency situations. Once these routes are done, then the City works on the secondary routes, followed by residential areas, which include dead end streets and culs-de-sac.

Please note: It can take upwards of 96 hours for City crews to get into residential areas. If it snows again while crews are working on residential routes, they must stop and return to plowing the priority 1 routes.

I have a medical condition and frequent the hospital, can my street be a priority for snowplowing?



During a snow event, the City focuses on clearing priority 1 routes, which are used by Police, Fire, Ambulance, BC Transit and other responders. The City also works closely with Emergency services to respond to medical situations during a snow event by clearing roads when necessary.

Who is responsible for clearing snow off sidewalks?

Residents and businesses are required to clear snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow event as per **City Bylaw 5000, Section 22 (1)**. The City clears sidewalks around parks, bridges, and major City facilities.



When out shovelling, if you are able, please lend a hand to your neighbour as there are some people in our community who may have difficulty clearing snow and ice and could use their neighbour's help. Also, when out shovelling, please take a moment to clear any catch basins (drains) that are next to your property. Blocked catch basins could flood adjacent properties and the excess water could make the road area dangerous if the water freezes.



When the cold weather hits, many people make their way to warmer places. So, we encourage Nanaimo residents, occupants, tenants, and businesses to make arrangements to have your sidewalk and/or storefront cleared while away from home or work.

We want to take this opportunity and **thank you** for doing your part in being a good neighbour. If you're a business owner, we are confident that your customers also **thank you** for doing your part in clearing the sidewalks for them!