

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW

WHERE DOES (SHOULD) IT GO?

The City of Yellowknife is a winter city; snowfall for 7 to 8 months of the year without warmer temperatures during the winter to reduce the snowpack. Therefore, it is a challenge for the City given the amount of roads, various City sidewalks and the approximate yearly average of 150 cm of annual snowfall (based on information from Environment Canada).

The snow removal season typically runs from December to late April and is dependent on the weather. Residents are informed of snow being removed from City streets by radio ads and signs that are placed 24 hours before removal. Snow removal begins at 1:00 a.m. and takes place during the early morning to avoid conflicts with motorists, pedestrians and children. For a map of snow ploughing and sanding priorities, please visit the CityExplorer map tool at www.yellowknife.ca.

SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

The City removes snow from Yellowknife's roads and where possible the sidewalks. Snow removal is generally performed at least once in residential areas and at least twice in the downtown core every winter season.

Snow removal operations involve a grader plowing snow from each side of the road, including sidewalks when possible, into a row along the centre line of the road. A loader and a series of dump trucks then remove the snow. If driving before snow removal is completed, motorists should keep to the right of snow piles placed in the centre of streets.

Snow removal operations will result in a drop-off at residents' driveways or walkways. The height may vary, depending on snow accumulation, but could be in the 100 - 300 mm range (4 - 12 inches). Residents should plan on ramping their driveway to street level before or after snow removal as this is not performed by the City.

SNOW REMOVAL - PRIORITY SYSTEM

The City carries out snow removal, snow ploughing and winter street sand placement (referred to as "sanding") to increase traction on the road and improve safety. The City carries out snow removal on a priority system. High traffic areas and areas close to schools have a higher priority than low traffic residential roads. The City is constantly inspecting road conditions and if conditions warrant, the City will plow roads to improve driving conditions until such time as snow removal takes place.



Did you know...

Section 48(2) of the Territorial *Motor Vehicles Act* states that, "No person shall operate or park a motor vehicle on a highway unless the license plate attached to the motor vehicle is free of dirt and obstructions." So please ensure your license plate is visible – at any time of the year (no snow, ice or dirt).

City of Yellowknife Population: 19,155
(*Bureau of Stats, GNWT*)

Kilometres of Road: 109 km

Kilometres of Sidewalk: 59 km

City maintained Sidewalks: 10.4 km

Sidewalks in Downtown: 17.5 km

Distance of maintained Trails: 2.5 km

Annual Snowfall in Yellowknife:

2005	192.1 cm
2006	176.6 cm
2007	144.8 cm
2008	207.5 cm
2009	TBD

All City services can be found online at
www.yellowknife.ca

SNOW ROAD MAINTENANCE

The maintenance of roads in the winter is based on a number of factors in Yellowknife including the type of snow, characteristics of the street in question, traffic volumes, and the interaction of pedestrians and motorists. The City attempts to maintain all roads in the best possible condition (within service levels) until snow removal is completed.

The three main activities of snow road maintenance are snow ploughing, sanding of roads, or the ultimate removal of all snow (see snow removal).

The options for snow ploughing with the grader are to plow the snow to the curb or to blend the snow over the traveled portion of the roadway. Both methods are used by City crews and the specific method will depend on road conditions, snow type and how quickly the snow must be removed from the driving surface.

Plowing the snow to curb creates a clear roadway but results in a snowbank in front of driveways or on sidewalks and narrows the width of the roadway. Blending the snow on the roadway works well to compact the snow for a level surface, but bumps or ruts may develop that need to be addressed through further grading.

SNOW REMOVAL

SIDEWALKS

Show you care, make your sidewalk bare...

Residents of Yellowknife still believe that -25°C is warm enough for outdoor activities; we still stop to help other residents, and most importantly, the residents of Yellowknife are caring, community oriented and always lend a helping hand.

Clearing the snow or ice from the sidewalks around their homes or their neighbours' homes helps other residents who have mobility challenges or those who just wish to take their children for a walk. Snow from the sidewalk around your property may be placed, but not piled, on the road.

In the central business district (downtown core) of Yellowknife, any owner of property abutting a sidewalk must remove snow and ice and take all other reasonable measures to ensure the safety of pedestrians [Section 110(2) of Highway Traffic By-law]. This being said, please ensure that you wear proper shoes/boots depending on the conditions as this will greatly reduce the possibility of injury.

DRIVEWAYS

Snow from your driveway or any other portion of your property may not be placed upon the road [Highway Traffic By-law, section 110(1)]. Placing snow from your driveway on the road greatly increases snow volumes, and creates unsafe driving conditions. Snow from your driveway must be placed elsewhere on your property.

Snow Removal Fines...

Failing to clean sidewalks in the Central Business District:

- Residential - \$50
- Commercial - \$100

Placing snow from anywhere other than a sidewalk on public property in all areas:

- Residential - \$50
- Commercial - \$100

Time dedicated to snow during the season:

Function:	Hours:
Snow Removal	6762.5
Sanding	1020.5
Parking lot maintenance	444.5
Snow-dump maintenance	360
Snow ploughing	945
Contractors (to assist)	1500



If you have questions on sidewalks or driveway snow removal,
please contact Municipal Enforcement at 920-5630.