

Winter Snow Removal

Putting snow in its place

Ada County Highway District
Fall/Winter 2016



When a winter storm hits, the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) winter maintenance crews are out working to clear roads of snow to make them safer. With more than 4,750 lane miles to cover, it's a huge job.

Residents have a job, too. Keeping the sidewalk in front of your home or business clear of snow and ice is required by local and state codes. It's also polite.

But where should residents and contracted snow plows put the snow when clearing it from walkways and parking lots?

Clearing Sidewalks

When shoveling the sidewalk in front of your home or business, place the snow on your property or within the buffer between the sidewalk and street, if one exists. Do not push it into the street.

Clearing Parking Lots

When clearing parking lots of snow, place the snow within the private property. Keeping the additional snow from the roadway will enable ACHD winter crews to better do their job, reducing the potential for motorizing hazards and flooding from melt.

ACHD Ordinance 190

Prohibits a person from obstructing a sidewalk, curb, gutter or any portion of a public right-of-way located in Ada County or any of its cities.

Idaho Code Section 18-3907

Prohibits placing an obstruction in a road, street or highway so as to cause or make any water to flow upon or impair the road street or highway.

Boise City Ordinance Section 9-08-07

Every owner of any building or vacant lot, and every person having the charge of any church, jail or public building in this City shall during the time snow shall be on the ground by 9:00 a.m. every morning, when necessary, clear the sidewalks and gutters in front of his property from snow, and keep conveniently free therefrom during the day, so as to allow citizens to use the sidewalks in an easy, safe and commodious manner, and every person neglecting or refusing to comply with the provisions of this Section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Why can't I just put snow into the street?

Unfortunately, ACHD's plow trucks can't be everywhere, which means not every street will be plowed during a winter storm.

Adding more snow to what has already naturally fallen into the street, or has been piled by ACHD plow trucks, can compromise visibility, create physical hazards, and block or overwhelm the storm drains once the snow begins to melt.

In addition, property owners may be held liable for any and all property damage, injuries and deaths resulting from snow or water introduced into the right-of-way.

QUESTIONS? E-mail tellus@achdidaho.org or call 208.387.6100