

SNOW REMOVAL

Please know that our first priority is to ensure major roadways (examples are: Main Street, Vista Drive, Thornton Road) **remain passable so that emergency services can continue to function.** During periods of severe weather such as sustained freezing temperatures and blowing snow, passable is defined as one passable traffic lane. If streets and cul-de-sacs within subdivisions are addressed, it is only after the main roadway surfaces have been cleared to the point that current weather conditions and equipment capabilities allow.

Some quick facts about snow removal:

- Plow equipment is not designed to clear the roadway to bare pavement. Plow equipment cannot remove compact snow and ice from the roadway until temperatures rise well above freezing and the roadways begin to thaw.
- Sand is spread once the snow stops and most of the un-compacted snow is plowed from the roadway. Sand can't help with traction on the road if it gets covered over by a new layer of snow or is removed by a plow.
- Snowplows shove snow towards the shoulder of the road in a continuous line or berm. Plow operators do not have the ability to direct it away from driveway entrances, mailboxes, parked cars, etc. **BE PREPARED TO SHOVEL YOUR DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE AND KEEP YOUR MAILBOX CLEAR.**
- Homeowners are responsible for removing snow blocking their access from their driveway to the cleared roadway areas. We cannot clear individual driveway areas.
- It is very difficult to maneuver plow equipment around vehicles left parked in the roadway. Please park vehicles off the road before, during and after a snowfall.



If possible, stay home and do not travel when driving conditions are dangerous and snow is on the roadway. **If you must travel during times of adverse weather conditions, please plan accordingly and know that you are responsible for having and using appropriate traction control devices such as chains or studded snow tires for your vehicle.**

During changing weather conditions, City crews work 24-hours to ensure as many roadways in Ferndale are made passable and free from drifting snow as possible. Please be patient, as we do our best to cope with the changing weather conditions. Public Works crews will get to as many streets as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, our office staff is unable to accommodate general requests for plowing. However, we will respond to all legitimate emergencies that pose a threat to life, health or property.

HOW CAN RESIDENTS HELP?

You can make winter driving in Ferndale safer by observing these safety tips:

- Travel at a safe distance from sand trucks and snowplows at all times to avoid damage to your car. Do not try to pass these vehicles when spreaders are operating.
- Exercise extreme care and caution when driving in adverse and inclement weather. Your safety and the safety of other motorists and pedestrians is the highest priority.
- Limit and restrict travel unless absolutely necessary during severe weather.
- Park off-street if possible.
- Do not attempt to stop a snow removal vehicle or obstruct its path.

SAFETY FIRST

- Do not push snow onto the roadway. This creates a hazardous situation and the homeowner can be held responsible for accidents, which result after snow is shoveled from their driveway.
- Eliminate snow piles at your driveway entrance whenever possible. High accumulations of snow will obstruct your vision when exiting your driveway and prevents oncoming motorists from seeing you.
- During snowfall or when snow is predicted, it is important to remove vehicles from all streets, to allow for the safe operation of snow removal equipment.
- Be patient, snow removal takes time. It is possible that not every street in the City will get plowed in a timely manner when snow fall is heavy.
- Clean snow from around fire hydrants and be careful you do not block the hydrants when you shovel snow.
- Owners of private parking lots are responsible for removing their own snow. City crews will not pick up piles of snow pushed from private parking lots.