



STREETS DEPARTMENT

WINTER FACT SHEET

The Streets Department is dedicated to providing citizens and visitors with high-quality, cost-effective, and timely maintenance of City streets, storm drains, and alleys.

During the winter, the City of Aspen Streets Department is committed to safe and efficient snow removal and maintenance of ice and snow.



What is the minimum amount of snow that the City's snow plow/removal team will mobilize for?

The City's Streets team conducts snow removal activity when there is three inches or more of snow in one storm event.



What is the difference between snow plowing and snow removal operations?

Snow plows are the first to mobilize in a storm. Plowing activity occurs in downtown Aspen and the residential areas when there is three inches or more of snow. The goal of plowing is to move the snow out of the roadway.

Snow removal is the process where dump trucks are used to collect all the snow that was plowed to the sides of the roads. The trucks take the snow to a snow storage site next to the Aspen Animal Shelter. Only snow from the downtown core is removed to the snow storage site. Snow in the residential area is left to melt off, enter the filtration systems of the City's stormwater infrastructure, and flow into the Roaring Fork River.



What time does snow plowing and removal occur?

The Streets team primarily completes snow plow operations at night. The priority order for plowing activities is: Main Street, downtown core, alleys, bus routes, artillery roads, residential streets, residential alleys. The goal is to plow snow off the surface of the pavement as close to the asphalt as possible.

During the day, in severe storms, the Streets team uses sand trucks to help motorists with traction in the downtown area rather than plow.

Snow removal operations only occur at night, generally beginning at 11pm and running through 9am. The reason for this is that the snow removal equipment requires open roadways, free of traffic and parked cars, to operate efficiently. In addition, there are 19 dump trucks making continuous trips to the snow storage site, which would significantly add to traffic in and out of Aspen if they were operating during the day. During a storm cycle of 3 inches or more, there are about 250 trips a night between downtown and the snow storage area.



What are the parking restrictions in downtown Aspen?

There is no parking in downtown Aspen from 3am-7am. Streets free of all cars allow the Streets team to successfully clear snow with the appropriate clearance on all sides of the heavy equipment.



What other snow maintenance is done in Aspen?

The Streets team sands all City streets to help cars with traction on the snow. The Aspen City Council has consistently opted not to use chemicals on Aspen's streets.



What are my responsibilities as a business or home owner in Aspen?

Your responsibility is to clear the sidewalk in front of your house or business, to ensure there is a clear path to your mailbox if it is on the street. The City plows do leave banks of snow that can hinder entry and exit from your driveway. It is your responsibility to remove this snow.



What does the Streets team do regarding ice and snow removal after storms?

Throughout the winter, after big storm events, the Streets team work throughout downtown to cut away thick ice that has formed on the roadway to get conditions as close as possible back down to the pavement. Graders go through and cut the ice and snow, which is then collected and removed if possible or pushed to the side of the roadways. This work is done during the day. Because this is a planned activity, signs will be posted at least 72-hours ahead of time to alert people there is no parking in a scheduled snow removal work area.



Who in the City is responsible for sidewalk snow removal?

The Parks and Open Space Department removes snow from City owned sidewalks, such as in front of public buildings like City Hall, Pitkin County, etc.



FUN FACTS

City Streets Department has 12 employees who work around the clock but a majority of them work from 11pm - 9am in the winter

If the snow storage area near the Aspen Animal Shelter is full, snow is stored in a designated area within Marolt Open Space.

Streets Department staff are assigned to the same neighborhood year after year because they learn where people park their cars in residential areas, where there might be bumps in the road, or other challenges.

The snow plow operators do not shove snow against cars when doing their routes as a courtesy to our residents.

Once, the snow removal crew almost picked up a car in a front loader because the owner hadn't moved the vehicle all winter and let snow collect around it. It was a big snow year!!

City Streets Department owns:

- 2 dump trucks
- 4 motor graders
- 2 loaders
- 2 snow cats
- 2 snow blowers
- 3 sand trucks

Streets Department rents:

- 19 dump trucks in winter