

CITY OF SOUTHFIELD
SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

Never underestimate Michigan winters. They bring everything from heavy snowstorms to frigid wind chills to warm rainy weather – often within days of one another. When the snow does hit – our plows have hundreds of miles of roadway to clear.

We offer these tips to help the City of Southfield crews make your travels faster and safer:

- **Don't Park on the Street!** Move your cars out of the street and especially cul-de-sacs into the driveways when an accumulating snow is predicted. It is difficult to maneuver trucks around on dry pavement let alone in icy conditions.
- **Give plows & salt trucks room to maneuver.** When applying salt and plowing snow they have to change lanes, back up and make more frequent stops.
- **Don't pass trucks when salt is being applied or snow is being plowed.** Keeping control of your vehicle can be extremely difficult.
- **Don't pull out into the intersection when snowplow trucks are approaching.** Drivers cannot control the snow coming off the plow blades. The snow often contains rocks and other debris from the roadway.
- **Don't shovel snow into the street when clearing sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.** This makes clearing the roadway more difficult and creates more hazardous ice patches.
- **Dig out Fire Hydrants** – if there is a fire hydrant at your curb, please try to uncover it. In the event of a fire emergency, this could help save a life by helping the fire department to locate the hydrant more quickly.

What roads get plowed first?

The City of Southfield prioritizes snow and ice control operations to make the roads safe and accessible during the winter season:

- **Priority I** – Major City and County Roads
- **Priority II** – Secondary roads (collector streets) and potentially hazard locations
- **Priority III** – Residential streets

Why don't subdivisions always get plowed?

Plowing operations on local roads (subdivisions) will be initiated when snow accumulates more than four (4) inches. Southfield's 180 miles of local roads take 36 hours to clear after a snowstorm passes. When snow accumulates eight or more (8 +) inches or we have complications like freezing

rain or more snow fall, clearing will take longer than the standard 36 hours. For snowfalls less than four (4) inches, we salt and treat the hills, intersections and curves as needed.

What about the lump of snow in my driveway

Snow plows typically leave a lump of snow at the ends of driveways as they clear the roadways. If the City had the means to clear that lump, we would. Why can't we? It would take weeks instead of 36 hours to completely plow the City. There just aren't enough hours, staff, money and equipment to do it. We need residents to take responsibility to clear the lump of snow at the end of their driveway. If you have a neighbor that needs help, please give them a hand.

Please do not shovel the snow back into the street. It can create dangerous ice patches for all drivers.

Assistance with Snow Plowing

THE CHORE program provides service for low-income (income eligible) senior citizens 62-years-old or older. Also they provide assistance for permanently disabled individuals (any age) that live alone in their home in the City of Southfield.

For more information about snowstorm activities or reporting a dangerous condition, contact the Public Works Department at 248-796-4860.

Please make this a safe winter season and drive carefully!