

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

“WIDE ENOUGH FOR WHEELS”

SNOW REMOVAL & SNOW SHOVELING REQUIREMENTS



PHOTO BY SARAH GREEN / THE RAPID

In cold climates snow and ice add significant barriers to travel making it difficult, and sometimes dangerous, for people with disabilities to reach public transit. Pedestrians may be forced to walk on roads in areas where pathways are not cleared, and drivers may not be able to see pedestrians hidden by snow banks at intersections.

People using mobility devices can have difficulty or be restricted from traveling through snow. A single shovel width is not enough. People who use walkers, wheelchairs, baby strollers, rolling briefcases, etc., all should have 36” wide sidewalks and curb ramps for safe travel, especially when the walks are slippery or wet.

- Montgomery County snow shoveling law requires all property owners or tenants to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks on or adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall
- The cleared pathway must be wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use.
- **Public Sidewalk Fine:** Violators will receive a written warning and get 24 hours to correct the violation or face a \$50 fine. For commercial and multi-family properties, each day that a violation continues is a separate violation. In addition to fines, the County can clear snow and ice and charge a violator for the cost.
- **Designated Disability Parking Spaces Fine:** The law also makes obstruction of designated disability parking spaces by snow or ice punishable by fines up to \$100 for the first offense and \$150 for subsequent offenses.
- Residents can use sand, salt, or other abrasives if ice or hard packed snow is unreasonably difficult to remove.
- Property owners have an additional 24 hours to clear walkways if a snow plow redeposit's snow or ice on a sidewalk.



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- There is no obligation to clear private driveways or walkways, or unpaved walkways.
- Residents who wish to report an unshoveled sidewalk can call 311 (240-777-0311 for outside county). Reports must include an exact address so the County can contact the property owner.



For more information, call 311 (in County), 240-777-0311 (outside County), or 301-251-4850 (TTY)

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow