

CITY OF RATHDRUM

SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



Our Mission

The City of Rathdrum's #1 Snow Removal Goal: keep our streets clear of snow and safe for travel.

Proactive and Prepared

The City of Rathdrum has taken several positive steps in preparation for the upcoming snow season.

- Built a containment facility for a 5,000-gallon MgCl₂ storage tank (2010).
- Snow Plow equipment – mechanical/hydraulic maintenance.
- Ordered and ready to install reflective markers for curbed medians and other curb areas.
- Assessed our city fire hydrants, to assure that each hydrant was properly flagged/marked.
- We have 300+ tons of sand, which is stored at our Public Works shop.
- Conducted a reconnaissance to assure that unused vehicles, basketball hoops, and other obstructions were removed from city streets.

In the battle against snow and ice, planning and preparation are half the battle. Although we can't predict how much snow we'll receive, we're ready.

Snow Routes

We have identified our snow routes based upon tackling the higher volume roads first.

Primary Routes:

These routes are the primary (arterial) streets. Crews continue plowing Primary Routes until they are safe for travel, or as long as snow continues to fall.

Secondary Routes:

These routes connect Primary Routes to Neighborhood Routes, and include streets such as Nagel, Crenshaw/Manchester, Coeur d'Alene, Stevens and Pine. Crews move to Secondary Routes after clearing Primary Routes. If at any time during plowing it begins to snow, plows will return to Primary Routes.

Neighborhood Routes:

These routes connect Secondary Routes into your neighborhood. Crews plow Neighborhood Routes only after Primary and Secondary Routes are safe. If at any time during plowing it begins to snow, plows will return to Primary Routes.

What You Can Expect from Us

Because Rathdrum rests in a snow-belt, snow accumulation is an ongoing expectation during the winter. Our plan of attack is as follows:

When Snow is Predicted: An anti-icing agent is applied to designated locations to keep snow and ice from accumulating or bonding to the pavement.

When Snow Begins to Accumulate (3"-or-more): Plows and/or sand/salt trucks are deployed. Plows will work the routes based on the levels of priority (Primary Routes → Secondary Routes → Neighborhood Routes).

Berms

Our goal is to clear the roadway for safe travel. Unfortunately, berming is an inconvenient result of plowing. Adjacent property owners are responsible for clearing the berm to gain access to the roadway. Rathdrum has approximately 2,000 homes and only 6 snowplow operators. We do not have the available resources to provide this service, and this is one way you can help. The City of Rathdrum does assist a list of disabled and elderly residents with removing berms across their driveways. We're doing our best and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

General Questions

I just saw a snow plow go down the street with the plow up. Why aren't they plowing?

There are many reasons for them to be traveling with the plow up. For example:

- The plow could be headed to remove snow from a primary route.
- The plow could be traveling back to our shop for repairs.
- There may not be enough snow on the roadway to plow.
- The driver may be waiting for the salt to melt the snow/ice enough to be plowed.

Why are you spraying roads when it is going to freeze?

The liquid you see being sprayed on the roadway is either a salt brine or magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) anti-icing agent. This is a preventive measure which assists with removing the amount of snow & ice on our roadways.

When do you sand?

Sand and/or salt is used in combination with plowing to provide reasonable driving surfaces in icy conditions. Spot sanding will be done at specific locations on primary and secondary routes, and at inclined intersection approaches, and at other locations as time permits.

When do you plow?

Plowing begins once the roadways have accumulated 3"-or-more of snow.

What streets get plowed?

Arterial streets, or Primary Routes, get plowed first to allow citizens access to services and to help provide access for fire, police and emergency services. When Primary Routes are treated and safe for travel, snow plows then move to the Secondary Routes.

My sidewalk needs to be shoveled. When will you be here to do that?

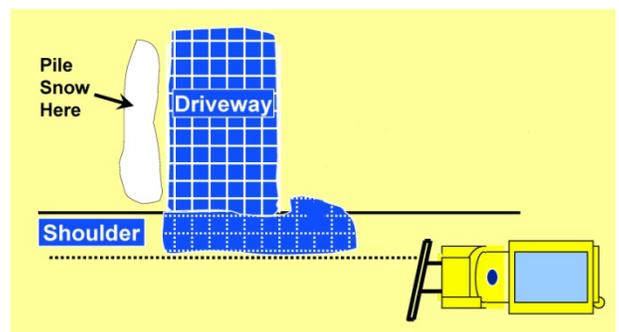
Unfortunately, the City does not have the available resources to clear sidewalks. And, as outlined in Rathdrum City Code 7.2D.4.B, sidewalk maintenance, including snow removal, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Why has a snow plow left a berm across my driveway? Are the plows equipped with gates?

Our goal is to clear the roadway for safe travel. Unfortunately, berming is an inconvenient result of plowing. Our plows are equipped with gates. However, gates only reduce the size of the berm.....they don't necessarily eliminate a berm, particularly when there is an appreciable accumulation of snow.

What can I do to help?

- As with any emergency, you should have on hand a minimum 3-day supply of food and medication for your family and any family pets.
- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or shut-in neighbors.
- When removing snow from your driveway, sidewalk, roof, etc., please do not throw/shovel/deposit/blow snow or ice into any public street, sidewalk or other public property.
- If physically possible for you, clean the storm drains and drywells near your home to keep melting water flowing.
- If physically possible for you, maintain clear access to nearby fire hydrants.
- Keep a snow shovel and a container of sand in the trunk of your car and in your garage or home.
- During a snow emergency (forecasted 3" or more of snowfall), it is necessary that property owners remove all vehicles from any street and/or right-of-way open for public travel within the city limits. Keeping our streets clear of parked vehicles will greatly assist our snow plow operators.



Rathdrum has great residents and we appreciate your patience and understanding while we conduct our snow plowing program.