

Village of Alsip
Public Works Department
“Frequently Asked Snow Command Questions”

As an ongoing effort to aid in providing the best possible snow removal service to the residents of the Village of Alsip, the Public Works Department would like to offer these answers to the most commonly asked questions.

Q: What are the basic goals of the snow removal program?

A: Our first priority is to provide safe and efficient travel on as many of our roads as possible in the shortest amount of time. These goals are accomplished by focusing our efforts on having the snow cleared for the morning and evening rush hours.

Q: Why does it take so long to remove the snow from our streets?

A: We are proud that the response time to clear village streets from an average snowfall of four (4) to six (6) inches only takes between twelve (12) to sixteen (16) hours. We utilize all the equipment and manpower available, but must also maintain the many other village services that are provided. Heavy wet snows, harsh blowing winds, sub-zero temperatures, and excessive vehicle traffic may also complicate snow removal efforts and can cause added delays.

Q: Why do I always see snow plows on other streets before mine is done?

A: Primary and collector streets in the Village of Alsip carry higher volumes of traffic. Therefore, the chances of accidents are greater and demand our first attention. It is also important that we maintain a consistent pattern so that our snow program can be evaluated and updated. Our manpower and equipment resources dictate that we follow a specific plan to cover all areas of the village as efficiently as possible.

Q: Why does it seem that the snow plows arrive just after I finish shoveling my driveway?

A: This question is probably the most commonly asked question from our residents. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to resolve this situation unless the homeowner waits until the snow plows have made their final passes along the curb line- usually their fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) passes down a street. Standard operating procedure requires the snow plow route driver to open the center of the road first. If you cannot wait until the snow plow returns to plow the curb line, you may have to remove some snow from the end of your driveway. On average, it takes about five (5) hours after the storm ends before a driver can return to plow the curb line.

Q: Why was my car plowed in?

A: Village ordinance prohibits parking on village streets during snow cleanup operations. Illegally parked vehicles are the number one handicap cited by our snow plow drivers. Illegally parked vehicles create a hazard and reduce the effectiveness of our program. This is especially true in culde-sacs and on dead-end streets.

Q: After a snowfall, when is it legal to park on village streets?

A: Vehicles are subject to ticketing and towing once there is an accumulation of one (1) inch of snow on primary routes and three (3) inches of snow on secondary routes. Vehicles should not be parked back on primary routes for twelve (12) hours after the snow storm has ended, or on secondary routes for twenty-four (24) hours after the snow storm has ended. During this period, storm cleanup operations along the curb line are being completed.

Q: Why is there a difference in the snow removal efforts on certain streets?

A: Some streets, such as 127th St. and Cicero Ave., are maintained by the State of Illinois, while other streets may be maintained by the Cook County Highway Department or Worth Township. Any questions pertaining to roadway jurisdiction should be directed to the Superintendent's office.

Q: Why won't the Village of Alsip help medically handicapped or senior citizens remove snow from driveways and private property?

A: Standard operating procedure prohibits any village employee from removing snow in back of the curb line. We suggest that those residents who for various reasons cannot perform snow removal activities on private property make arrangements with family, neighbors, or private contractors to assist them.

Q: How can I help, and what are my responsibilities as an Alsip homeowner?

A: Your patience and cooperation are the most important factors in helping us do our job for you. Other things you can do for our mutual benefit include not pushing the snow from driveways and sidewalks back into the street, promptly removing vehicles from village streets, keeping the area leading to your mailbox clear of snow, and placing garbage cans behind the curb on garbage collection day. If you have a fire hydrant in front of your home, please help to keep it exposed, or report it if it gets covered with snow.