

Frequently Asked Snow Questions

As an ongoing effort to provide the best possible snow removal service to its residents, the Alsip Public Works offers answers to these most commonly asked questions.

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

A: We are proud that the response time to clear Village streets on an average snowfall of four to six inches only takes about 12 hours. Heavy wet snows, harsh plowing winds, sub-zero temperatures and vehicle traffic may complicate snow removal efforts and cause delay. We utilize all of the equipment and manpower available but must also maintain the many other Village services we provide.

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

A: Arterial and collector streets in the Village carry higher volumes of traffic. The chances of accidents are greater and these streets demand our first attention. Also, it is important for us to maintain a consistent pattern as our manpower and equipment resources dictate following a specific plan. In order to cover all areas of the Village as efficiently as possible, this consistency is necessary to evaluate and update our snow program for future storms.

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

A: Some streets, such as 127th Street and Cicero Avenue, are maintained by the State of Illinois. Other streets may be maintained by the Cook County Highway Department, Worth Township or the management company of your private drive. Any questions pertaining to road jurisdiction should be directed to the Public Works Department.

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

A: This question is probably one of the most commonly asked questions by our residents. Unfortunately there is no easy answer to resolve this situation unless the homeowner waits until snow plows have made their final passes along the curb line- usually their forth pass down a street. Standard operating procedure requires the snow plow route driver to open the center of the road first. If you can not wait until the driver returns for the curb line, you may have to remove some snow from the end of the driveway. On average, it takes about five hours before a driver can return to do the curb line.

Q: Why was my car plowed in?

A: Village ordinance prohibits parking on Village streets during snow cleanup operations. Our drivers will not avoid plowing streets with illegally parked vehicles. These vehicles risk not only being ticketed and towed, but also being plowed in. Illegally parked vehicles are the number one handicap cited by our snow plow drivers. They create a hazard and reduce the effectiveness of our program.

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 of snow removal for you. Please do not push snow from driveways and sidewalks back into the street as **it is illegal to place any substance- such as snow, ice or dirt- upon the public way or public right-a-way.** Please promptly **remove vehicles from Village streets** at the start of a snow fall. Illegally parked vehicles delay snow removal operations and are subject to ticketing and towing. **Keep the area leading to your mailbox clear of snow and place 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 visible. **Report hydrants hidden by snow.** Your cooperation with these requests will greatly reduce complications and is appreciated.