**Snow Removal Ordinance Note: This may or May Not Apply to where you live.**

**This is to only be used as an Example**

The County’s [snow removal ordinance](https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2013/12/Snow-Removal-Ordinance.pdf) requires all property owners to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within a designated time period. The ordinance also prohibits transferring or depositing snow and ice from private property onto public property. Individual homeowners who are **physically incapable** of complying with the Ordinance are exempt (read about exemptions, below).

**Focus on Safety, Accessibility**

Providing clear, safe roadways *and* pedestrian routes ensures access to jobs, schools and services in our walkable community. The snow removal ordinance helps ensure **safe access for pedestrians** and to make all transportation modes available as soon as possible after a snow storm.

**Ordinance Specifics for Residents and Business Owners**

* **Snow and ice removal –** All property owners are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property:
  + Must be removed from the **entire width of the sidewalk** up to 3 feet wide (to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and adults with children in hand).
  + Must be removed **within 24 hours** after the snow stops falling when accumulations are less than 6 inches, and **within 36 hours** when 6 or more inches of snow accumulate (as measured at National Airport, per National Weather Service). If another snow event occurs, the clock will reset to the end of the most recent snowfall. We will post the official snow ending time on this webpage.
  + Noncompliance could result in a **civil penalty of $50** for sidewalks less than 200 linear feet in length, or **$100** for sidewalks longer than 200 feet.
  + The County mayremove the snow or ice on sidewalks around private property **when the owner fails to comply** within the designated time period, and charge the cost to the owner.
* **Depositing snow and ice on streets or sidewalks**: Private owners may not deposit snow or ice from private property onto public property, including streets & sidewalks. Such action may result in a class 4 (criminal) misdemeanor and fine of**$250**.
* The County is responsible for clearing **sidewalks bordering County government-owned propertyCommercial property owners** are expected to comply with the Ordinance. Snow clearing should be part of basic business operating plans.

**Exemptions**

Even though some individuals are exempt from the Ordinance, it’s our hope that everyone will **do the best they can** to clear sidewalks, keeping our community safe and walkable. Homeowners who may need extra help can contact their [civic association](https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/community/civic/); the County is working with them to support neighborhood volunteer clearing efforts.

* Individual homeowners who are **physically incapable** of complying with the ordinance are exempt.
  + The County will not pre-qualify or maintain lists of exempt individuals.
  + Prior to issuing citations, County staff will make every effort to **contact owners** to determine if they are exempt.
  + In the unlikely event that you receive a citation (and you’re exempt), provide information about your exemption.
* If snow/ice is **redeposited** on your cleared sidewalk as a result of government action (e.g., snowplowing), you will be exempt from the ordinance. However, it’s our hope that everyone will do what they can to re-clear sidewalks to ensure our community is safe and walkable.