

A Resident's Guide to Snow Removal

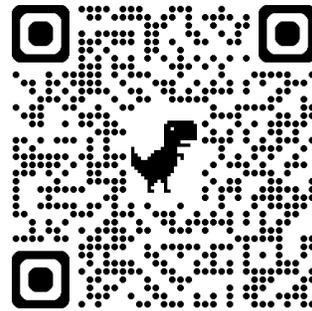
Pennsylvania property owners are generally responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks fronting or abutting any portion of their property within a specific timeframe, usually 12–24 hours of precipitation ending.

It is illegal to shovel or plow snow into streets or alleys. Violations can result in fines. It is essential to check specific municipal ordinances for precise timelines in Western PA municipalities as requirements differ.

Follow this link or QR Code for Franklin Park Borough <https://ecode360.com/5134285>

Key Requirements and Guidelines:

- **Time Limits:** While some areas allow 24 hours, others, such as Brentwood, require clearing snow within four hours of daylight. Many others set a general 12-hour limit.
 - The Borough of Franklin Park recently increased to allowing 24 hours to clear sidewalks after the snow event ends.
- **Safe Disposal:** Snow must be maintained on your property and may not be pushed into roadways, onto fire hydrants, or into/over other public infrastructure such as utilities and traffic control devices. Do not dump snow in creeks or streams.
- **Method:** In Pennsylvania a minimum width of 36 inches is commonly required to ensure pedestrian safety and accessibility standards, however, you do not have to clear a path any wider than the sidewalk surface.
- **Liability:** Even though a sidewalk is for public use, under the "hills and ridges" doctrine, homeowners may be liable if they allow snow to accumulate into dangerous conditions rather than clearing it.
- **Penalties:** For full details about penalties, please see the link or QR code provided to access the Borough Code. An image of the snow removal ticket is provided at the end of this document.



Best Practices:

- **Snow placement:** Pile snow to the right of your driveway (facing the street) in a grassy area away from streets and sidewalks to prevent it from being pushed back

into your driveway by plows. It is also good practice to clear some of the snow to the snow to the left side of your driveway (facing the street) to create an area for approaching snowplows to “empty off” before they get to your driveway on the next pass.

- **Timing:** Clear snow soon after it stops falling to avoid it turning into ice, which is harder to remove. In cases of heavy snow, you might consider trying to clear the snow incrementally such as after every 4 to 6 inches if you can do so safely.
- **Safety:** Be sure you are visible to snowplows and traffic when shoveling near a public road. Consider getting involved with a “Snow Angels” program in your area or simply assist your elderly or disabled neighbors with their snow removal.
- **Fire Hydrants:** Although there is presently no code in Franklin Park requiring clearing snow from around fire hydrants, good practice is to clear snow from within 36 inches of fire hydrants. Although modern electronic maps help responders locate fire hydrants, losing the first 2 minutes on arrival to dig out a hydrant to secure a water supply can be the difference between saving and losing a home in your neighborhood.

Borough of Franklin Park Building and Zoning Department
2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh PA 15237-1619

Phone: 412-364-4115 X313
Email: permitapplications@franklinparkborough.us

YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF BOROUGH CODE

Tracking #: [REDACTED] House # and Street: _____

This document is hand delivered and/or posted to the property in violation.

Detail of violation: Borough of Franklin Park Chapter 180 Streets and Sidewalks, Article II Removal of Snow and Ice; Maintenance of Sidewalks, this property has not removed or cleared away snow and/or ice from the sidewalk or sidewalks that front or abut said building or land within a reasonable time not exceeding 24 hours from cessation of any fall of snow, sleet or freezing rain. Link to code: <https://ecode360.com/5134285> or use QR Code.

Compliance: The party responsible is so ordered to comply with the code within 24 hours.

Penalties: The party responsible for this parcel is so ordered to pay the fine defined below to the Treasurer of the Borough of Franklin Park within 7 days of the issuance of this violation.

First Offense: \$25.00 Date: _____
Second Offense: \$50.00
Third Offense: \$100.00 Official: _____



Should the payment not be received within the 7 days, a citation may be issued and the responsible party brought before a Magisterial District Judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 plus costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the Borough, and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment to the extent permitted by law for the punishment of summary offenses.