
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SNOW PLOWING IN THE CITY OF MT. SHASTA

During the winter months when the snow falls, the City receives many questions, concerns and complaints in regard to snow removal procedures. The following Questions and Answers were compiled to address these inquiries.

1. Why must snow be removed from the street?

So that traffic flow, such as emergency vehicles, mail carriers, commercial deliveries, and public commuting, can continue.

2. When is snow plowed on City streets?

We begin plowing when the snow level reaches a depth of four to six inches, or when it becomes necessary in the interest of public safety.

3. How many snow plows are used by the City?

A total of eight machines are used by the City. Seven machines are used for snow plowing and one for street sanding.

4. How many personnel are required to operate the plows?

The entire Public Works crew of eleven men work together to clear the roadways and keep them safe.

5. How long does it take to plow the City streets, alleys and parking lots?

For a snowfall of twelve inches, it takes approximately eight to twelve hours.

6. Why is the snow plowed to the center of the street in the downtown area?

- A.** If we plowed snow to the side, we would lose parking along the curb resulting in a loss of business and thus, a loss of revenue that helps pay for snow removal.
- B.** The downtown street widths make it possible to plow to the center.

7. Why is the snow plowed toward the curb and driveways rather than to the center of the street in residential areas?

- A.** Snow plows are designed to discharge the snow to the right side allowing the snow plow to travel with the flow of traffic.
- B.** If the snow is plowed to the center of the street, vehicles cannot cross the snow berm that is left, requiring equipment to follow the plows to open the intersections which is cost prohibitive to do citywide.
- C.** When snow is allowed to remain in the center of the street, daytime melting would leave a thin layer of water in the street which could freeze at night and cause a dangerous situation. Additionally, excess street surface damage would occur from the freeze / thaw cycle.
- D.** Residential streets are generally too narrow to allow plowing to the center

8. Why doesn't the City clean out driveways with a loader after plowing?

With approximately two thousand driveways in Mt. Shasta, this would be cost prohibitive.

9. Why can't plow operators move the blade when they pass by a driveway?

Our snow plows are equipped with two blades. The front blade pushes the snow to the side blade or "wing blade". The wing blade is attached at a fixed angle and it can only move up or down. If the blade was lifted at a driveway while pushing snow, it would leave a snow berm protruding into the street which would require removal.

10. Why is it necessary to widen the streets and fill driveways?

- A. We keep the snow pushed back as far as possible to ensure adequate space for additional snow.
- B. If the streets are allowed to become too narrow with more accumulation, a traffic hazard is created by restricting travel to one lane, making emergency and other vehicle traffic more difficult.

11. Why does the snow plow go by more than once, often filling my driveway after I have already shoveled it out?

The snow plows must sometimes make two or more passes to completely clear and widen the street. The following suggestions may help:

- If possible, wait until the plow has finished your street before shoveling or clearing your driveway.
- Always shovel or move snow in the direction of normal vehicle travel on the street so the plow doesn't bring the snow back to your driveway.
- Do not shovel or blow snow from your driveway back into the street. It could freeze and create a safety hazard for others and cause significant damage to vehicles, snow plows, and other City equipment. City of Mt. Shasta **Muni-Code Chapter 12.24.060 makes it unlawful to place snow from private land onto any street, alley, or travel portion of the public right of way.**

12. How many miles does the City have to plow?

The City is responsible for plowing approximately fifty miles of roadway.

13. Why is parking not allowed on City Streets during snow removal?

On street parking during snow removal conditions creates many problems:

- A. Many snow storms come with little notice. Most often at night when you are sleeping. If your vehicle is left on the street, and snow falls, it is difficult to move the vehicle into your driveway. It is much easier to park your vehicle in your driveway before the storm arrives.
- B. City crews usually begin plowing around four o'clock in the morning, before most people have had a chance to move their vehicle. If plows are forced to go around a vehicle parked on the street, a hazard is created by narrowing the street width. If the vehicle is moved after plowing, the snow obstruction remains, which is a hazard and must be removed. This adds time and expense to snow removal operations.

- C. If streets are allowed to become too narrow, emergency vehicle traffic may become restricted.
- D. If vehicles are left on the streets, damage to vehicles and plow equipment could occur.
- E. **Muni-Code Chapter 10.44 of the City of Mt. Shasta requires that vehicles must not be parked on the Streets, Avenues, Parking Lots, or other ways or areas during snow removal operations. Vehicles in violation can be removed and stored at the owner's expense and be subject to fines of \$100.**
- F. FOR DESIGNATED SNOW REMOVAL PARKING AREAS CALL:
 - Mt. Shasta Police Dept. - (530) 926-7540
 - Mt. Shasta City Hall - (530) 926-7510
 - Public Works Department - (530) 926-7526

14. How is it determined when to haul snow from the Down Town commercial district?

- A. During snow removable operations, all other City functions must continue also. We try to remove the snow as soon as possible, especially if another storm is anticipated.
- B. Intersections are cleared back first, then the center berm. We will also try to start the berm removal at different locations each time snow is hauled away.

**THE CITY OF MT. SHASTA
305 N. Mt. Shasta Boulevard
Mt. Shasta, California 96067
(530) 926-7510 FAX (530) 926-0339**