

Overview of Snow Removal Process:

Morinville’s Snow Removal Process is guided by the Snow and Ice Control Policy. The Policy:

1. Creates a balanced approach to level of service and availability of resources (budget, equipment, and manpower)
2. Ensures a fair and equitable approach to snow and ice control between neighborhoods
3. Sets clear expectations for snow clearing priorities as it relates to making streets and walkways as safe as reasonably possible

Snow clearing is expensive. Every full-scale, town-wide snow clearing can cost between \$70,000-\$90,000. Ensuring safe travelling roadways and walkways is mandatory and non-negotiable, however it must be accomplished in a fiscally responsible and manageable way.

The Snow and Ice Control Policy set outs a framework for “when and how” snow control measures will take place. The underlying rationale is that high traffic roadways require higher level of service than lower traffic roadways. Residents driving on lower traffic residential roads have greater opportunity to drive slower and exercise safe driving distances for the road conditions.

Morinville follows the below guidelines for managing snow and ice:

Priority	Road Type	Main Characteristics	Snow Depth Trigger	Action	Target Timeframe ¹
Priority #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Roads • Active Walkways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high traffic volume • Truck routes • Emergency routes 	0 – 5cm 5 – 10cm	Clear Snow Drifts Clear Snow	8 Hours
Priority #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arterial Roads • Walkways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High traffic volumes • Collector of multiple neighborhoods 	5 – 10cm	Clear Snow, stockpile where available	24 Hours
Priority #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium traffic volumes • Collector of a single neighborhood 	10 to 15cm	Clear Snow, stockpile where available	72 Hours
Priority #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Residential • Laneways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low traffic volumes • Ability to drive carefully at crawl speed 	15cm +	Clear Snow, stockpile where available	5 days

¹ Timeframes are from the end of snowfall and during business days. Extra staff will be called in during off-hours during a major event.

Frequently asked questions:

How does Morinville measure snow depths?

Morinville will monitor several locations and take measurements of the compacted snow depths . These measurements are averaged when assessing for when town-wide residential snow clearing will begin. Once the average trigger depth is reached, all roads within that Priority level will be completed.

What happens when residential snow clearing is declared?

The Town is divided into 5 zones with each zone taking approximately one day to clear and on a rotating schedule. "No Parking" signs will be placed in the zones a minimum of 24 hours in advance to allow for residents to move their vehicles off the road. An average zone will have 500+ houses, therefore we are unable to provide door to door notice for residents. We require residents to assist by either proactively parking vehicles off the street or by paying daily attention for street signs.

Where am I supposed to park?

It is expected that those with garages or driveways will utilize them. Houses with no private parking will need to find their own alternative parking. To ensure zones get completed in the day, snow clearing starts very early in the morning (before 6am). It is recommended vehicles be moved the night before otherwise vehicles will be subject to tows and tickets to ensure streets are ready for snow clearing.

What happens if I forget to move my car?

Vehicles parked on roads when snow clearing is declared and 24 hours after "No Parking" signs are in place will be towed and the owner will be issued a \$80 ticket. Parked cars in the way of snow clearing create substantial stand-by costs for the Town.

What other factors are considered in snow clearing?

To ensure fiscal responsibility and operational efficiencies, snow will be pushed into available storage areas along roads such as boulevards between curbs and sidewalks. Residents shall not place any items within this area because the plowed snow could damage them. If there is no space in boulevards, then snow will be removed. Roads may be bladed to a level snow pack rather than removed all the way to bare pavement.

What can residents do to help?

1. Move vehicles off the street
2. Remove rubber driveway/curb mats or other items on the street
3. Give snow removal and sanding equipment room to do their job safely
4. Do not shovel snow from your property onto the roadway