

**Q: How can residents help during a snow emergency?**

- The city ordinance puts the onus of clearing sidewalks on property owners. All sidewalks adjacent to your property must be cleaned within 24 hours of the completion of the storm. If this is not done, the property will be cleaned and the owner will receive a fine and a bill for the service performed.
- Handicap ramps adjacent to your property are included in the code and also must be cleared within 24 hours.
- Dig out any fire hydrant on or adjacent to your property. It helps keep you and your neighborhood safe.
- It is illegal to place snow from any walkway, parking lot and/or driveway into any city street or highway, as doing so can result in a fine.

PROPER  
**SHOVELING**  
TECHNIQUES



## SNOW SHOVELING TIPS

- When shoveling, start slow and continue at a slow pace (suggestion: shovel for 5-7 minutes and rest 2-3 minutes). Shoveling snow is a strenuous activity that is very stressful on the heart.
- Shovel early and often; new snow is lighter than heavily packed/partially melted snow. Take frequent breaks. Always try to push snow rather than lifting it.
- Protect your back by lifting properly and safely:
  1. Stand with feet at hip width for balance;
  2. Hold the shovel close to your body;
  3. Space hands apart to increase leverage;
  4. Bend from your knees, not your back;
  5. Tighten your stomach muscles while lifting;
  6. Avoid twisting while lifting;
- 7. Walk to dump snow rather than throwing it;
- 8. When snow is deep, shovel small amounts (1-2 inches) at a time.

For up-to-date information on impending snow events, please call the city's winter hotline:

**413.449.5544**

For other inquiries, please call the Department of Public Services & Utilities 413-499-9314 or visit [www.cityofpittsfield.org](http://www.cityofpittsfield.org).



# When It Snows In Pittsfield



**Facts, frequently asked questions about operations, ordinances and other important things to know when snow falls in the City of Pittsfield**

Department of Public Services and Utilities  
City of Pittsfield

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are several frequently asked questions about how a snow emergency is managed by the City of Pittsfield. If you have additional questions, please call the Department of Public Services and Utilities at 413.499.9314.

### Q: What factors does the City consider in determining whether to call a snow emergency?

Snow emergencies are called based on a set of factors. Total accumulation is one factor, but the city also takes into account the amount of snow already on the street prior to the storm, and whether another storm is forecasted in close proximity to a snow event. Another factor is the expected temperatures on the day of a storm and the days immediately following it. The city's primary concern is safe passage on streets, as well as parking needs in neighborhoods with limited or no off-street parking.

### Q: How much notice does the City provide before a snow emergency begins?

We try to give residents sufficient time to plan ahead and try to give approximately 6 to 12 hours of notice before parking restrictions take effect. This also gives us time to notify the media and arrange other types of notification.

When a snow emergency is declared it is announced through the various channels:

- News media, including print, radio, and television.
- City website, [www.cityofpittsfield.org](http://www.cityofpittsfield.org)
- Winter Hotline, 413.449.5544
- City of Pittsfield Facebook page
- CodeRED

Additionally, the city will attempt to contact residents before towing cars by knocking on doors and making announcements.

### Q: What are the parking rules during a snow emergency?

Snow emergencies will start either at 7 a.m. or at 7 p.m. in anticipation of a snow event.

At the time the emergency goes into effect you must move your car to the even or odd side of the road matching with the even or odd day of the week for the first 24 hours. Switching to the opposite side of the road for the next 24 hours.

Failure to do this may result in your car being ticketed and/or towed.

When an emergency is called all normal parking rules and regulations remain in place (you still CANNOT block hydrants, park in crosswalks, or park in handicap spot without a handicap permit).

## SNOW EMERGENCY

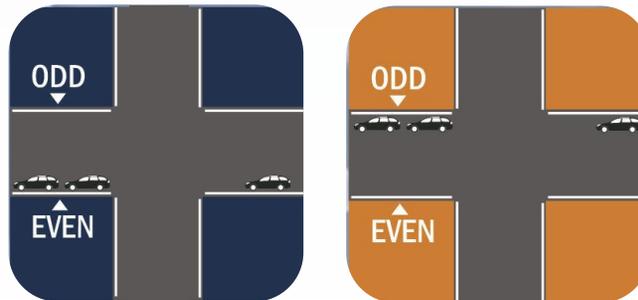
Starting at 7 a.m. or 7 p.m.

**Park on Even Side when declared on even day**

**Park on ODD side when declared on ODD day**

**For the first 24 Hours**

**Switching to the opposite side for the next 24**



### Q: Why does the City implement alternate side parking during snow emergencies?

- Alternate side parking rules allow one side of the street to remain clear of parked vehicles to allow for the city to clear the street of snow. Then on the next day, the opposite side can be cleared.
- Allowing to park thru winter months on the street while controlling where and when to avoid parking is a balance between providing equitable parking for residents, especially in dense neighborhoods.

### Q: Does the City provide sand to residents?

Winter sand is free for residents (one bucket maximum) and is available at the locations listed below, on a self-serve basis:

- Route 20 Fire Station at Barker Road
- Pecks Road Fire Station
- Root Place (off of Elm Street)

### Q: What happens if one or both sides of the street have signage with parking regulations?

The emergency order will not override existing parking regulations properly identified with signage on the street. Some streets will not allow parking on the street, by traffic order, the entire year, others may not allow parking on the street for certain times or the day or months of the year.

## How are we doing?

Our Highway Department would like to hear about your experience with snow removal operations. Please take our short snow removal survey after each snow storm to let us know how we are doing. Scan QR Code or Visit the Public Services page on the city's website, [www.cityofpittsfield.org](http://www.cityofpittsfield.org).

