

City of Fort Thomas Kentucky

Snow Removal Policies and Procedures

With winter comes snow and ice fall, and the Ft. Thomas General Services Department is ready. The department has developed a salt brine application process as well as a snow and ice control plan to keep streets safe and accessible during these events.

Salt brine application:

Salt brine is a mixture of rock salt and water chemically mixed at a specific temperature. The application to roadways is an effective means of delaying the adhesion of ice and snow to cold pavement. Motorist will notice a white residue in the form of longitudinal lines on the pavement surface.

Area description:

City streets are divided into 4 separate quadrants, North, South, Central, and small truck route. The small truck route is designed for those streets that have limited width and narrow cul-de-sacs that limit the ability to maneuver the large snowplows in.

Snow removal priority system:

Priority one streets are the main arterial routes within the City. These streets are cleared first. They are designated based upon traffic volume, access to emergency facilities and schools, and overall public safety.

Priority two streets are arterial links, connector streets and then side streets. These streets are cleared after all priority one streets.

Procedure:

For **minor snowstorms** (0 to 2 inches) and depending on conditions. Salt only will be applied. Using the snowplow in certain conditions will only accelerate ice formation to the pavement. The friction of vehicles tires over the salt provides for a better melting process at certain temperatures.

For **larger storms**, streets will be plowed as well as salted as needed. Time frames for completion of snow and ice removal are affected by, storm intensity, duration, temperature, traffic conditions, and time of day.

Please Note: Snow-plowing operations will cause accumulated snow to often times be left at the entrances to private drive/walkways. This condition is a product of heavy snowfall and cannot be avoided.

State Roads:

Streets that are the responsibility of the State of Kentucky to clear that are located in and around the City are U.S. 27, I-471, Memorial Parkway, and North Grand Avenue. In emergencies and as time permits the City will help clear these roads.

After the storm:

Potholes are created from the freezing and thawing effect under the pavement. Potholes are especially present after roads have been cleared and the temperature climbs a bit. The City will respond as quickly as possible to pothole areas. Pothole locations may be reported on-line by emailing the information to jrice@fthomas.org.

What you can do to help:

Travel a minimum of 200 feet behind snowplow equipment to allow for salting and abrupt movement to avoid obstacles such as parked cars and signs. Use extreme caution when passing snow removal equipment. Do not park in cul-de-sac and along primary routes; use off-street parking whenever available. Limit and restrict travel, this allows snowplow operators to clear roads more effectively.

Snow Emergency:

The City of Fort Thomas does not declare a “snow emergency” that would require vehicles to be removed from specified streets. Although “snow emergencies” are an effective tool to assist snow/ice removal, the City recognized that the demand for on-street parking is necessary. However, utilizing off-street parking whenever possible will facilitate efficient snow removal efforts.