Be Prepared for Snow & Ice Season

Useful information to prepare you for winter driving.

Visit our website for more info.
www.cityofanacortes.org

Ice & Snow, Take It Slow!

Before leaving home be prepared. Find out about driving conditions. Safe drivers know their limits. If the roads are bad, remember ice and snow, take it slow, or just don’t go.

Don’t Crowd The Plow!

In the winter our snowplow drivers are out on the roads to keep them clear of snow and ice and keep you safe. Snowplows are usually spreading anti-icing materials from the back of the truck and may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it or use caution when passing. The road behind a snow plow will be safer to drive on.

Here’s what you need to know about driving around snowplows:

Distance: Give snowplows room to work. Don’t tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution.

Speed: Be patient when following the snow plow. Allow plenty of time to slow down. Remember, Ice and Snow, Take it slow.

Vision: A snowplow operator’s field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don’t always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.

Plows turn and exit the road frequently. Give them plenty of room. Stay at least 4 car lengths back (50 feet)

Drive smart. Snowplows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Never drive into a snow cloud, it could conceal a snowplow.
What To Expect When It Snows:

Know the snow map. The City of Anacortes is committed to clearing snow from identified routes throughout the city. The snow map (found at www.cityofanacortes.org) can help you know what areas take priority. Crews will continue plowing areas outlined on the map until the pavement is bare and wet.

- Residential areas will not be plowed or sanded until areas outlined on the map are bare and wet from the center line to curb or fog line.
- Snow is plowed from the center of the roadway to the curb or fog line. The city is not responsible for shoveling out driveways.
- Drivers should be prepared. Leave early to give yourself extra time on the road. Private driveways are the owners responsibility to clear.

What Can You Do During Winter Storms:

Listen to the weather forecast and have a plan in case severe weather strikes.

- Make sure you have a snow shovel and de-icer.
- Don’t drive if you don’t have to. Fewer cars on the street during and after a storm makes it easier and safer for plows to get through. Reschedule appointments if you can.
- Make sure your car is ready! Know how to chain up your car properly. Clear all snow from the vehicle.
- Slow down, allow plenty of room between you and the next vehicle.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Don’t get overconfident with 4-wheel drive. Give yourself room.
- In shady spots and intersections slow down.

Be A Good Neighbor

- When snow falls, shovel and de-ice your sidewalk with rock salt. Children, senior citizens and your mail carrier will all appreciate the effort.
- If you have elderly neighbors, consider clearing their sidewalk too. If everyone helps out, sidewalks will be open to reach the store and bus stop.
- Clear your garbage carts of snow and ice. It makes pickup quicker and more efficient.
- Businesses and building managers should shovel sidewalks and bus stops outside their locations so customers and employees can get around safely.

After the Storm

The City of Anacortes uses sand for areas where additional traction is necessary: hills, curves and stopping zones. With the addition of salt in our sand mixture we will be applying less sand than previously. This practice eases in the clean-up and disposal of left over sand and reduces impact on our drainage systems.

The streets on our snow map are mechanically swept after each storm. The City of Anacortes performs street sweeping as soon as possible after the end of a storm event to try to minimize the amount of sand entering the drainage system.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the City crew begin to plow?
Plowing begins as snow starts accumulating on the roadway.

What streets get plowed?
Our focus is to provide access for fire, police, hospital and ambulance emergency services. Primary and secondary routes are found on our snow map at www.cityofanacortes.org

Should I pass a snow plow?
No, not if it is plowing the road. Remember to stay at least 4 car lengths back, they are making the roads safer for you.

Do roads ever get closed?
It is possible that streets will be closed, however we have not had to close a street in quite a long time.

Who can I call for road conditions?
In Washington State, you can dial 511 for current road conditions.

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