



sanitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2025

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Press Release #25-14

www.nyc.gov/sanitation

DSNY Issues Winter Operations Advisory for Thursday, February 20 Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

While major snowfall no longer expected, Department of Sanitation planning for the worst to keep New Yorkers safe

The New York City Department of Sanitation has issued a Winter Operations Advisory for Thursday, February 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A Winter Operations Advisory is the Department's "lower level" snow-fighting notification, as opposed to the "higher level" Snow Alert.

While forecasts for this event have steadily trended downward as the storm system has trended to the south, some meteorologists believe one to three inches of snow may still fall on New York City tomorrow beginning during the end of the morning commute. New York's Strongest must always plan for the worst case scenario, and with bitterly cold temperatures already here, brining operations will begin at 4:00 this afternoon.

Salt spreading will begin at the first sign of snow, and plows will be ready to go if and when two inches of accumulation are observed.

The Department has approximately 700 million pounds of salt on hand, a historically high wintertime headcount, and new [high-tech ways of tracking snow operations](#).

New Yorkers should know: DSNY plans for the worst-case scenario. Do your part by staying off the roads or, if you absolutely must drive, by doing so slowly, safely, and carefully.

In a snow event, New York City's Sanitation Workers cover our streets, highways, and bike lanes, but all residents should remember that clearing snow from sidewalks is the property owners' responsibility. Property owners must do their part to make sure that the sidewalks are passable. All winter weather information and information about the City's response to the storm can be found by visiting the City's Severe Weather website at nyc.gov/snow or by calling 311.

Operations Update

Thanks to historic investments in DSNY, the Department's workers and equipment are more prepared for winter weather than ever before.

Every street is on a route, and unlike in past years, every route can be dispatched at the same time, bringing equity in snow clearance to the entire city. Thanks to historic investments in DSNY, bike lanes will also be serviced simultaneously alongside car lanes. DSNY will be tracking these operations via the new [Bladerunner 2.0 platform](#).

If and when plowable depths of 2" or more are reached, residents will be able to track the progress of DSNY snow removal vehicles at [nyc.gov/PlowNYC](#). Remember, a plowed or salted street will not show blacktop right away.

Trash/Recycling Collection

There is no change to DSNY collection or to bin requirements at this time, however delays are possible given a snow event so soon after [Monday's holiday](#). Residents should place material out for collection on their [regular schedule](#).

Snow Clearing Information

While DSNY clears streets and bike lanes, property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks. As a reminder, property owners and car owners may NOT push snow into the street, including bike lanes. This impedes snow clearing operations and is illegal. Snow may be moved against the building, to the curb line, or areas on private property. Sidewalks should be passable for all pedestrians, including a minimum 4-foot clear path, where possible.

If the snow stops falling between:

- 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., property owners must clear sidewalks within 4 hours
- 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., property owners must clear sidewalks within 14 hours
- 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., property owners must clear sidewalks by 11 a.m.

The fine for failure to clear sidewalks is \$100 for the first offense, \$150 for the second offense and \$250 for the third offense.

Alternate Side Parking

Alternate Side Parking is in effect at this time.

New Yorkers are also encouraged to sign up for [NotifyNYC](#), the City's free emergency notification system, available in 14 languages including ASL. Through NotifyNYC, New Yorkers can sign up to receive phone calls, text messages, and emails alerts about severe weather events and emergencies. To sign up for Notify NYC, call 311, visit [nyc.gov/notify](#) or follow [@NotifyNYC](#) on Twitter.

Find information on Sanitation snow operations along with residents' responsibilities during and after snow at [nyc.gov/snow](#).