



sanitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.nyc.gov/sanitation

DSNY Issues ‘Snow Alert’ for Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Roadway Dining is Suspended for the Duration of the Snow Alert for the Safety of Patrons

Alternate Side Parking Suspended for Wednesday and Thursday

The New York City Department of Sanitation has issued a Snow Alert for Wednesday, December 16, 2020 beginning at 2 p.m.

Based on current forecasts, the Department expects snowfall beginning late Wednesday afternoon. Total accumulations of 8 or more inches are possible, with the potential for localized higher accumulations. 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 www.nyc.gov/severeweather or by calling 311.

While the Department is expecting a significant snowfall, its workers and equipment are prepared. Salt spreaders are already filled and ready to go. Additionally, the Department’s collection trucks will be pulled from collection duty and turned into snow plows, ready to plow snow once two inches of snow has fallen. Further, as conditions allow, the Department will use its “brine trucks” to apply liquid salt to some early-to-freeze roads. The brine, spread only before precipitation begins on dry streets, forms a barrier on the streets and helps keep snow and ice from accumulating. Given the specifics of this event, brine is likely to begin being sprayed on Tuesday evening.

In a Snow Alert, the Department coordinates with NYC Emergency Management and the Department of Transportation on snow clearing protocol in accordance with each agency’s written snow plan. All relevant city agencies have been notified of the snow alert.

In order to facilitate roadway clearing, Alternate Side Parking regulations will be suspended both Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17.

NEW THIS YEAR – OPEN RESTAURANT GUIDANCE

Roadway dining during this Snow Alert **MUST CLOSE** by 2pm on Wednesday, December 16. The City will notify restaurants when they could reopen roadway seating for outdoor dining. Based on the current forecast, the City estimates that this Snow Alert will be over on

Thursday evening, allowing restaurants to reopen, but this may change to the morning of Friday, December 18 based on actual accumulations and roadway conditions.

At this time, the City is not asking that restaurants remove any barriers or structures for roadway dining.

Guidance for Open Restaurants

During this Snow Alert:

- Diners may not sit in roadway setups. Restaurants should remove or secure any tables and chairs in the roadway.
- All electrical heaters in roadway must be removed.
- If possible, restaurants should remove any overhead coverings, or regularly remove the snow from overhead coverings until the snow alert ends.

Restaurant owners may find additional information to prepare their spaces for snow at <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/openrestaurants.shtml>.

As a reminder, property owners, including restaurants with outdoor dining structures, may NOT push snow into the street. 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.

New Yorkers are also encouraged to sign up for Notify NYC, the City's free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, 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 www.nyc.gov or follow [@NotifyNYC](https://twitter.com/NotifyNYC) on Twitter.

Find information on Sanitation snow operations along with residents' responsibilities during and after snow at nyc.gov/snow.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 705 salt spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.