

# What Does the Borough Do When the Snow Falls?



## 1 Before the snow falls

Public works authorities regularly track weather forecasts, to help them plan their strategy before the snow starts falling. They organize the deployment of their snow-removal crews and make sure that all the equipment is ready and waiting in the garages.

## 2 When the snow falls



### Less than 2.5 cm of snow Spreading abrasives

Crews spread melters and abrasives on the streets and sidewalks.



### Over 2.5 cm of snow Snow clearing

Crews plow the streets and sidewalks by pushing the snow to the side, to allow pedestrians and drivers to get through. Plowing goes on constantly during and immediately after the snowfall. Melters and abrasives are usually spread at this time too.



### Over 15 cm of snow Snow loading

When there is over 15 cm of snow on the ground, the borough calls for a snow-loading operation. First, though, crews have to finish clearing snow from the streets and sidewalks, and no-parking signs have to be put up to warn residents to move their vehicles. Once this has all been done, the crews begin loading and blowing the snow into trucks. Then the trucks take the snow to disposal sites.



### Storms with over 30 cm of snow

Storms that drop over 30 cm of snow can be a real nightmare! It becomes difficult for sidewalk plows to clear the sidewalks properly if the snow is too deep. Street parking gets harder and harder to find. More than ever, the borough needs your help! Use public transit to get around, and watch for no-parking signs. If you have a driveway or a garage, park your car there rather than in the street.



# NEW this winter

Borough snow removal operations are a team effort by public- and private-sector operators to clear snow from streets and sidewalks in the timeliest possible manner. The borough's Direction des travaux publics has taken advantage of the awarding of new snow removal contracts for the period 2010–2013 to make a number of changes to maximize efficiency of the various operations:

- A new strategy for partitioning the territory will reduce

the transit times for the borough's snow removal vehicles to and from the garages and the snow disposal sites.

- More attention will be paid to sidewalks: With several systems for spreading de-icing salts and abrasives, we are confident that citizens will note a definite improvement.
- Teams will also have an extra snowblower for the loading phase of operations.

## How Long Does a Snow-loading Operation Take?

The average length of a snow-loading operation depends on the amount of snow on the ground, as shown below. These times can vary with the *density of the snow*\* or if there is *more precipitation*\*\*:

Accumulation of:

15 to 20 cm	4 days
20 to 25 cm	5 days
25 to 30 cm	6 days
30 to 35 cm	7 days
35 to 40 cm	8 days

\* **Snow density:** When the snow is more dense, it takes more trucks to cover the same area. So loading takes longer.

\*\* **More precipitation :** If a snow-loading operation is in progress and more snow falls, the operation has to be interrupted. Workers and snow-removal equipment have to be reassigned to plowing the streets and sidewalks and spreading melters and abrasives. These are priorities, since pedestrians and drivers can't get around otherwise. Then the snow-loading operation will start again.



**If your vehicle is towed away because it was blocking snow-removal operations:**

Info-remorquage 514 872-3777 or [ville.montreal.qc.ca/info-remorquage](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/info-remorquage)

## Snow removal in the borough, in figures

- 228 km of streets to be cleared
- 449 km of sidewalks to be cleared
- An annual budget of over **\$7 million**
- The borough fills an average of **25 000** snow hauling trucks every winter. They carry snow to disposal sites.



## Keep your distance

Snow clearing operations in the borough require the use of many trucks and specialized apparatus. Members of the snow removal crews ask that you always keep a safe distance away from their vehicles. This important safety measure is aimed at pedestrians as well as motorists and cyclists.

## What to do with your Snow

**Did you know that there is a by-law prohibiting property owners from dumping snow from private property on a public thoroughfare?**

By keeping your snow on your own property instead of dumping it on the sidewalk and in the street, you let pedestrians get around more easily and drivers find parking spots. Remember that many residents aren't lucky enough to have driveways for their cars. Obeying

the by-law also speeds up snow-loading operations.

The by-law requires that you shovel or blow the snow from your driveway and walk onto your own property, not on the street or on the sidewalk. If you have a private contractor clear your snow, make sure to tell him to obey the by-law.

### Obtaining a permit

If there is not enough room on your property for your snow, you may apply for a permit to

dump your snow in the street. You must come in person to the borough Accès Montréal office to apply for the permit.

The cost will depend on the type of building in question and the area to be cleared. You must provide the dimensions of the area to be cleared (with a photo or sketch) when you come to apply for your permit. For the address and hours of the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Accès Montréal office, see page 2 of this newsletter.

## Routes and Priorities

Snow-loading routes are determined ahead of time, according to various priorities. Operational efficiency and continuity are also taken into account when routes are planned.

**Following are some examples of snow clearing priorities:** main arteries in the borough; public security (police, fire department); emergency access to hospitals; bus routes and access to metro stations; highway service roads; educational institutions; streets with large numbers of residents; steeply sloping streets.