

# **Shoveling your sidewalk is the neighborly thing to do...and it's the law!**

In Medford, sidewalks must be cleared **within 6 hours** after the snow falls. Failing to comply with this sidewalk clearance ordinance is a fineable offense. You will be fined \$25 the first time, then \$50 per day.

It is the responsibility of the person living in the residence to:

- Keep the adjacent sidewalks clear of snow and ice. If you go out of town, make sure someone else will do it.
- Clear openings at corners, crosswalks and curb cuts so pedestrians can cross safely.
- Dig out fire hydrants and catch basins.
- Always park your car at least 20 feet from the street corner so plows can push snow away from the crosswalks.
- Pay attention to “No Parking” signs during snow emergencies.

Often the DPW plows snow back into your driveway. Pushing snow into a driveway opening or along a car parked in the street is unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm. Don't throw snow from your sidewalks into the street – this is against the law (\$50 fine).

Snow and ice make walking difficult for everyone: school children, mail carriers, elders, pets, T riders, and especially persons with disabilities. In Medford everyone needs to use the sidewalks.

## **Materials to use:**

- Use ice melt with calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ). It's better for the environment and only a small amount is required to melt ice. Potassium chloride (KCl) is okay but be aware it can damage concrete.
- Use biodegradable cat litter as another good traction option.
- Avoid rock salt (NaCl or sodium chloride) – it kills plants and trees.
- Avoid sand. It doesn't help pedestrians; it makes hard ice more slippery. It also gets into storm drains and catch basins and is expensive to clean up in the spring.

## **If you need assistance:**

The city of Medford does not provide shoveling services. However, if you are over the age of 60 the Council on Aging has a list of shovelers for hire.