

## Winter Storms What You Can Do

- Know the Snow Map.
- Listen to the weather forecast. Have a plan in case severe weather strikes.
- Make sure you have a snow shovel and de-icer.
- When the storm hits, don't drive if you don't have to. Fewer cars on the street during and after a storm makes it easier to clear streets and safer.
- Use the bus. SDOT works closely with Metro Transit to ensure bus routes are passable.
- If you must drive, make sure your car is ready. Carry chains and be prepared to put them on. Make sure windows are clear and the snow is brushed from the entire car.
- Slow down, allow plenty of room between you and the next vehicle, and be prepared for ice you cannot see, especially on bridges and raised roadways.
- Watch for and respect "Street Closed" signs. They are placed by the police for your safety.



## For Assistance and Info

**Seattle Department of Transportation**  
Emergency Dispatch (206) 386-1218

**Follow SDOT on Twitter and Facebook**  
subscribe to On the Move and SDOT blogs at [www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm)

**King County**  
Road maintenance (206) 296-8100  
[www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/default.aspx](http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/default.aspx)  
Rider information (206) 553-3000  
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov>

**Seattle City Light**  
Electrical Outage Hotline (206) 684-7400  
[www.seattle.gov/light](http://www.seattle.gov/light)

**Washington State Department of Transportation**  
Road conditions call 511  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic)

**Sound Transit Rider Information**  
1-(888) 889-6368  
[www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org)



**Seattle Public Schools**  
(206) 252-0207  
[www.seattleschools.org/area/main/snow.htm](http://www.seattleschools.org/area/main/snow.htm)

**Information in Languages other than English**  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm)



## What the Snow Map Shows

This map shows the streets and their service levels. Routes include the busiest streets that connect our neighborhoods with downtown or with the greater Puget Sound region; streets used by the transit agencies, especially in harsh weather; streets used most frequently by public safety agencies; and streets important to public institutions such as schools, universities and hospitals, and also Seattle's major employers. Remember, SDOT does not plow non-arterial streets.



## Level of Service

The Snow Map shows the different snow routes in three different colors. Routes shown in orange will be treated so they are bare and wet from curb to curb. Routes shown in blue will have one bare and wet lane in each direction. The routes shown in green will be de-iced on curves, hills and stopping zones. SDOT calls these Levels of Service 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Level of Service 1, 2 and 3 are not statements of priority, but rather help you know what conditions to expect.



## Coordination with the Bus System

SDOT and King County Metro Transit have worked carefully to make sure that SDOT's snow routes meet the needs of the transit-riding public. The snow routes reflect how Metro will operate in the event of snow and ice.

## — Winter Storms We're Ready —



In Seattle, winter can bring heavy rain, high winds, ice and snow. We're ready.

The city of Seattle is taking a new approach. Before the snow starts falling, we will pre-treat major streets to keep them less icy. Once the snow is falling, we will be there with a best practices-based response to keep major streets clear.

SDOT monitors Seattle's weather 24 hours a day, all year long with a direct line to the National Weather Service and live Doppler radar feeds. We also have computerized street surface sensors, digital real-time cameras for critical streets, and a Global Positioning Satellite system to help manage our fleet of snow-fighting trucks.

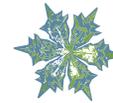


## — When Storms are headed our way We are Prepared —

We will plow major streets. These are the key routes for emergency vehicles, public transportation and most street traffic. We do not plow non-arterial streets.

- We start preparing for winter in the summer: training staff, calibrating equipment and working with local agency partners.
- When snow is predicted we deploy our trucks to pre-treat main streets and bridges with de-icer.
- When high winds or heavy rain are forecast, our crews are ready to remove fallen trees from the road and to repair traffic signs and signals.

## — When the Storms Hit We have a New Plan —



SDOT works closely with King County Metro, the Seattle School District, local universities, hospitals and major employers to ensure our snow fighting work maintains mobility for people and goods, and access to the region. The Snow Map inside shows where we will focus our snow-fighting efforts. Those streets will be treated with de-icer and plowed when the storm hits. Now is a good time to plan routes to get to work, the grocery store, child care and medical appointments.

## — Winter Storms Be a Good Neighbor —

You are part of the team, too! Your participation and awareness can help.

- Clear your sidewalk and nearby street drains of leaves. Place your leaves in a yardwaste container, not in the street.
- When snow falls, shovel and de-ice your sidewalk. You can use salt like we do. Children, senior citizens and your mail carrier will all appreciate the effort. If you have elderly neighbors, consider clearing theirs too. If everyone does, 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.
- Snowplows will push snow towards the curb, so cars on snow routes may need to be shoveled out.





**Snow/Ice Service Level**

- Level 1 - All lanes bare and wet
- Level 2 - One lane each direction bare and wet
- Level 3 - Curves, hills & stopping zones treated

