

# Winter Weather

Let's be ready together

## For Assistance and Info

### Transit Rider Information

**King County Metro Transit**  
Rider Information (206) 553-3000  
[www.kingcounty.gov/metro](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro)

**Community Transit**  
(425) 353-7433(RIDE)  
[www.communitytransit.org](http://www.communitytransit.org)

**Pierce Transit**  
(253) 581-8000  
[www.piercetransit.org](http://www.piercetransit.org)

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

**Amtrak Information**  
1 (800) 872-7245  
[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

### Schools

Listen to local radio and television stations for information on school closures and schedule changes or check [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org). Please be sure to retain the snow and ice information that your local school distributes. For a recorded message on Seattle School District schedule changes, call the **News and Information Line, (206) 252-0207**.

### Alternative Languages

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

### Street Maintenance

**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 Services Division**  
**Road maintenance** (206) 296-8100  
[www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/roads](http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/roads)

### Suburban Cities

Call the public works or roads department located in your city.

### Power Outages

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

**Puget Sound Energy**  
1 (888) 225-5773  
<http://www.pse.com>

### Road Conditions

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

**Washington State Ferry Information**  
Statewide dial 511  
In Seattle (automated) (206) 464-6400  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries)



## During 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 and safer to clear streets.
- 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 and allow plenty of room between you and the next vehicle. 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.

## When Storms are headed our way We're 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 signs and signals.



## Winter Storms Be a Good Neighbor

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

- Clear the 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 appreciate your 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 easier and more efficient.
- Snowplows will usually push snow to the side of the road, so you may need to remove the extra snow from your driveway. Also, if you park on a snowplow route, you may need to dig your car out.
- Businesses and building managers should shovel sidewalks and bus stops outside their locations so customers and employees can get around.

## 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 proactive 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 the Storms Hit We Have a 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 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.

