

City of Cortland Snow Removal Update

Do you own a house in the City of Cortland? Did you know that property owners are required to shovel the sidewalks outside their house?

Are you renting something in the City? Whose responsibility is it where you live? Don't know? Now would be a good time to read your lease and/or talk to your landlord to find out.

According to city law, property owners have until 6 p.m. the following day to clear their sidewalk. During snowstorms that span several days, you are required to shovel your sidewalk every 24 hours.

Code officers will now be enforcing this law in a timely fashion. What does that mean? Let's say it snows on Monday. Property owner has until 6 p.m. Tuesday to clear the sidewalk. On Wednesday, the code officers will be on the lookout and if not cleared, they will tape a citation to your door.

For the first offense, the first citation, there will be a \$25 fine. No warnings will be given as this is not a new law. The fines escalate after the first \$25 citation. The fees really start racking up if you don't shovel your sidewalk within 24 hours of getting a citation. If you don't do it yourself the city will have their person do it and then send you the bill – with a \$25 administrative fee tacked on. If the fines and fees are not paid they will get added to your property tax bill.

Snow-clearing fine schedule for violations in a 24-month period:

First offense: \$25

Second offense: \$25

Third offense: \$75

Fourth offense: \$125

Fifth offense and beyond: \$250