



www.codot.gov
970-385-1423

COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Region 5 Maintenance Section 3
20581 Highway 160 West
Durango, CO 81301

DEPOSITING SNOW ON ROADWAY PROHIBITED

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) reminds all property owners, renters and private snow removal operators that it is unlawful to deposit snow on or next to a public highway.

Colorado law (*see statute 43-5-301 below*) and many local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This includes the ditch and right-of-way (ROW) area along the roadside. Pushing snow on public roadways can cause an increasing hazard with each snow storm, as snow piles or berms become larger, freeze and are more difficult to manage throughout the winter months.

Violations are considered misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as slippery areas, frozen ruts or bumps that can contribute to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and hindered accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow in the roadway or ROW.

Residents are responsible for clearing driveways and sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow storm to allow safe use by pedestrians. This is particularly important along school pedestrian routes to prevent children from having to walk in the street. It is required that owners place snow from their driveways and sidewalks onto their front yard or other areas of their own property and not into the street. This practice reduces the number of icy areas on streets and ensures proper drainage flow into the storm sewer once snow melts.

CDOT snow plow operations take place during and after a snow storm. Broad clearing of snow is often necessary to widen roads to ensure that ice and snow melts from the pavement surface. This may take place up to a few days after the event depending upon the severity of the storm and weather conditions. Unfortunately, subsequent CDOT operations may push snow back onto sidewalks and driveways. Clear the area of your property next to your driveway and near the roadway to give plows a place to push snow and help reduce the chance of a snow berm being created across your driveway.

COLORADO REVISED STATUTE 43-5-301. Obstructing highway – penalty

No person or corporation shall erect any fence, house, or other structure, or dig pits or holes in or upon any highway, or place thereon or cause or allow to be placed thereon any stones, timber, or trees or any obstruction whatsoever. No person or corporation shall tear down, burn, or otherwise damage any bridge of any highway, or cause wastewater or the water from any ditch, road, drain, flume, agricultural crop sprinkler system, or other source to flow or fall upon any road or highway so as to damage the same or to cause a hazard to vehicular traffic. Any person or corporation so offending is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than three hundred dollars and shall also be liable to any person, unit of government, or corporation in a civil action for any damages resulting therefrom. Upon a third conviction therefor, the offender shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than three hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than three days and shall also be liable to any person, unit of government, or corporation in a civil action for any damages resulting therefrom. Each day such condition is allowed to continue upon any highway shall be deemed a separate offense.

This section makes it a criminal offense for anyone to obstruct a public highway.

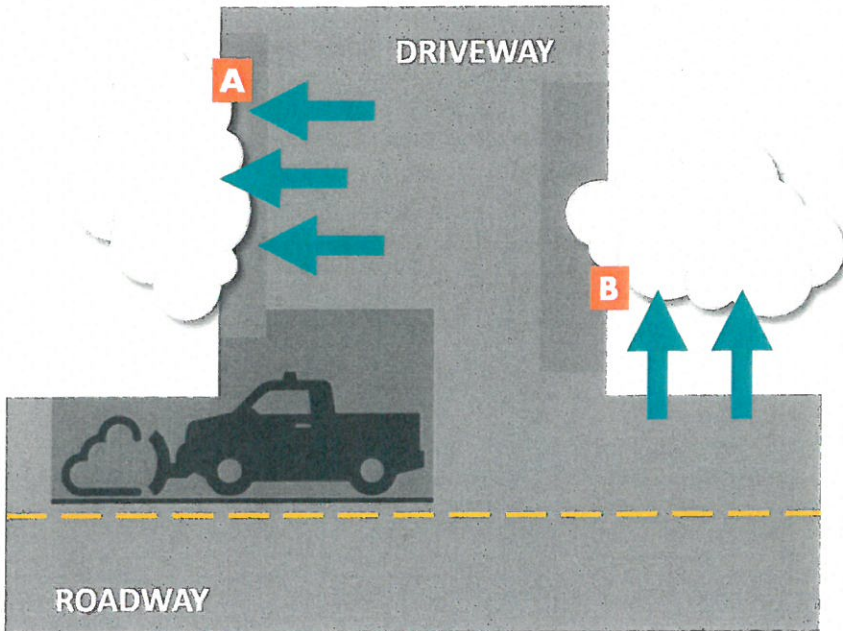


COLORADO

Department of
Transportation

DRIVEWAY SNOW REMOVAL

Recommendations for removing snow from your property



YES! Move snow from your driveway onto your **own** property.

A If standing on your property, facing the road, move snow to the right or left of your driveway.

B Clear the area of your property next to your driveway and near the roadway. This gives plows a place to push snow and helps reduce the chance of a snow berm being created across your driveway.

NO! DO NOT push snow into the roadway or right-of-way. It is illegal!

Colorado law (CO Statute 43-5-310) and many local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This includes the ditch and right-of-way area along the roadside. Pushing snow on public roadways creates many hazards for CDOT snow plow operators and the general public including:

- drainage problems,
- drifting,
- sight obstruction,
- hindered accessibility,
- slippery areas and
- frozen ruts or bumps that can contribute to motor vehicle or pedestrian crashes.

