

Dear Chief: What is the law pertaining to snow removal in the City limits?

I have cited below the language from our City of Alamosa ordinance pertaining to snow removal.

The City of Alamosa ordinance pertaining to snow removal is covered under Section 16-21 – 16-24 and reads as follows:

“It shall be the duty of all persons within the corporate limits of the city to keep the sidewalks in front of and adjacent to the tenements and grounds occupied by them clear of snow and ice, and after any fall of snow such person shall remove the same from the sidewalks within twenty-four (24) hours after such snowfall”.

“Wherever houses or other buildings shall be occupied by several tenants, it shall be the duty of the person or persons occupying the story or stories nearest the sidewalks to clean the snow and ice from the same”.

“Where any premises, or parts of premises, are not occupied in any manner, it shall be the duty of the owner thereof to comply with the requirements of sections [16-21](#), [16-22](#) and [16-24](#)”.

“If the owner of any such premises so unoccupied shall be a nonresident of the city or absent from the city, any resident agent who shall have charge of such premises shall comply with the requirements of sections [16-21](#) through [16-23](#)”.

One of the common concerns we hear from citizens is that snow plows push snow up onto sidewalks. Unfortunately this is a consequence of plowing any street with heavy plows or residential, light plows. We encourage citizens who are healthy to assist neighbors who may need help shoveling and finally, please shovel snow into small piles into your yard rather than into the street that requires additional plowing. If you are unable to shovel it into your yard, shovel it as close to the curb as possible.

The Alamosa Police Department is responsible for responding to snow removal complaints and has been active this winter noticing property owners and tenants of our ordinance and responsibilities. This is an ordinance that while there is an enforcement mechanism, we prefer voluntary compliance. Shoveling snow and chipping ice in below zero weather is not fun, but it beats the alternative of someone getting injured. Pedestrians use our sidewalks each and every day; let's be good neighbors and keep these pathways safe.

To report a snow removal concern in your neighborhood, please contact us at (719) 589-2548.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police