

City of Salem's New Sidewalk Repair Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I be notified that the sidewalk is now my responsibility?

If your property is adjacent to a sidewalk built after September 1, 1992, you should be notified by first class mail within the next several months. If you have an older sidewalk, you will be notified that sidewalk maintenance is your responsibility once the sidewalk is determined by the City to be in acceptable condition or has been repaired by the City.

Do I have to fix the sidewalk if it has been damaged by a City street tree?

No, the City will continue to be responsible for repairing sidewalks damaged by street trees.

How long will it take for the City to repair my sidewalk?

City staff will notify property owners when repairs are scheduled for the sidewalks on their block. Given the number of miles of sidewalks in the city, the repair schedule will occur over several years.

Does this mean that I now own the sidewalk in front of my house? If so, can I control who uses it or remove it?

No, the sidewalk is located within the public street right-of-way, which means that the general public has the right to use the sidewalk at any time. You cannot block or control the use of the sidewalk. It is illegal to remove a public sidewalk without first obtaining a permit from the City.

Who is in charge of cleaning the sidewalk and removing snow and ice?

The responsibility to keep sidewalks adjacent to your property clear of debris, vegetation, snow, and ice is the responsibility of the property owner. That has not changed with the new ordinance.

Can I repair the sidewalk myself if want to?

Yes, you can repair the sidewalk yourself or have a contractor do the work. You need to obtain a sidewalk repair permit and sidewalk closure permit from Room 320 at City Hall. Both permits are free. The work will be inspected by the City to make sure it conforms to City standards.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the new sidewalk repair ordinance or the City's repair program?

A telephone hotline and web page will soon be established to take messages and provide information regarding sidewalk repair. In the meantime, general questions regarding the ordinance or the City's repair program can be directed to Mark Becktel, Transportation Services Manager, (503-588-6211) at mbecktel@cityofsalem.net or Mike Gotterba, Public Works Communications Manager, at the same phone number or at mgotterba@cityofsalem.net

Who do I contact to report a damaged sidewalk and request a repair?

A telephone hotline and web page will soon be established to take messages and provide information regarding sidewalk repair. In the meantime, if you wish to report a damaged sidewalk and submit a Service Request, contact Public Works Dispatch at 503-588-6333.