Sidewalk salt: It'll keep you on your feet, but too much is bad for our lakes and rivers

Where does sidewalk salt go after it melts the ice and snow on our driveways and sidewalks? This salty water flows into our storm ponds, wetlands, rivers and lakes. And high concentrations of sidewalk salt (sodium chloride) in our water negatively affect wildlife habitat and water quality, including the water we drink.

This winter, we can protect our water resources by trying these snow removal tips:

- Use shovels, snow blowers and ice scrapers to remove snow and ice.
- Use de-icers like sidewalk salt sparingly and clean up any extra.
- Save the leftover sidewalk salt to use again after another snowfall. Buy environmentally friendly de-icers, which are better for our water, pets and landscapes.
- Treat the pavement before a snowfall with a liquid salt brine (23% salt mixed with water).
- If you notice excess salt on a parking lot or sidewalk near you, talk to the property manager about improved methods.

Make your own salt brine anti-icer:

1. Fill a gallon bucket or gallon-sized hand pump sprayer with warm water (about 60 degrees F).
2. Add 34 ounces (or about 2 pounds) of sidewalk salt to the water and mix well.
3. Using a hand-held pump sprayer, apply the mixture to your sidewalk and driveway up to one day (24 hours) before a snowfall.
4. Remove the snow, easily, with a shovel or snow blower.

Our lakes and rivers may freeze over this winter, but we still need to remember that what we put on our driveways and sidewalks will eventually end up in the nearest lake or river. Clean driveways and sidewalks mean clean water.

Dan Miller is Coordinator for the Scott Clean Water Education Program. For questions, contact Dan at (952)492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us.
The new water and sewer rates are as follows:

Water usage charges:
- $3.77 per thousand up to 30,000 gallons
- $4.82 per thousand from 30k—60k
- $5.87 per thousand from 60k on up

Water monthly availability charge $9.42

Sewer usage charges:
- $4.65 per thousand gallons

Sewer monthly availability charge $14.72

Storm sewer residential per month $5.87

The new rates will go into effect January 1, 2011. Residents and business owners can expect to see the new rates on the bills they receive in January. If you have any questions about your utility fees, please feel free to give Tom Nikunen, Finance Director, a call at 952.492.2535.

The majority of fees for 2011 are the same as 2010 with the exception of the water, sewer, storm sewer rates and connection charges. For a comprehensive list, contact City Hall or visit the City’s website at jordan.govoffice.com.

At the November 2, 2010 General Election, Thom Boncher and Joe Thill were elected to serve on the Jordan City Council along with incumbent Jeremy Goebel. They will be sworn in at the January 3, 2011 Council meeting and their terms will expire in four years.

Thank you to Jeanne Marnoff and David Hanson for their four years of dedicated service to the City of Jordan. A reception in their honor will take place Monday, December 20, 2010 in Council Chambers in the basement of City Hall located at 210 E. First Street. The reception will take place after the Council meeting which should end at approximately 8:00 p.m. Please join us in celebrating their successes on the Council. The public is invited to attend.

Cookies and punch will be served.

Snow plow operators request that residents remember to keep their garbage cans behind the curb on garbage collection days. Crews work hard to clear all roadways curb to curb and make them as safe as possible, and this is more difficult if the garbage carts are placed in the street. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you plan on leaving town for an extended period in the winter, please notify the City’s Utility Billing Department.
Snowmobile Regulations

As the snowmobile season is again upon us, it is time to once again publish the snowmobile regulations as a reminder to residents:

- The speed limit citywide is 10 miles per hour.
- Operation prohibited within city limits from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.
- Operation is prohibited on all sidewalks and boulevards.
- Operation on private property is prohibited unless permission has been given by the owner of the property.
- Operation on city streets is only allowed by residents who are traveling from their residence to the nearest designated trail. The operator must then take the most direct route from the city trail system to city limits, state trail or county trail.
- Persons 14 or 15 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Operation by a person under the age of 13 is prohibited in city limits.
- Operators born after December 31, 1976 must have in their possession a valid safety certificate issued by the State of Minnesota.
- Operation is prohibited on any lands owned by a public body or on frozen waters, including, but not limited to: school grounds, park property, playgrounds, recreational areas, private roads, platted but unimproved roads, utility easements, public trails and golf courses.
- An operator may not operate a snowmobile in a manner so as to create a loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which disturbs, annoys or interferes with the peace and quiet of other persons.
- Operators must make a complete stop at all uncontrolled intersections and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and automobile traffic.

Precautions:
- Expect maintenance vehicles to back up frequently.
- Never assume plow drivers can see you, their field of vision is limited.
- Stay 70 feet (4 car lengths) from the maintenance vehicle so the driver can see you.
- Place garbage or recycling containers away from the edge of the street so they do not get hit or covered.
- For the safety of children, do not let kids play on snowbanks along streets.
- Residents are requested not to put landscape materials (fences, rocks, or other decorative material) in the boulevard. Boulevards are designed for utility purposes and snow storage.
- Unfortunately, plow operators cannot control the snow from going into driveways. All residents are responsible for clearing their own driveways.

Parking Regulations:
There shall be no parking on city streets, alleys and parking lots when the snow accumulation is 1 1/2 inches or more, from 2:00 a.m. until the street is plowed curb to curb. Exceptions are allowed on First Street and Water Street, from Mill Street to Varner Street, where parking is allowed until 6:30 a.m. on even numbered days for vehicles parked on the even numbered side of the street. On odd-numbered days, vehicles may park on the odd-numbered side of the street. If vehicles are not removed, they may be fined and/or towed away at the owners expense.

Sidewalk Regulations:
All commercial property owners adjacent to sidewalks are required to remove snow and ice within 12 hours after its deposit. In residential areas any property owner adjacent to a sidewalk is required to remove snow and ice within 24 hours after its deposit. Snow should not be snowblown or shoveled into any street.

Fire Hydrants:
Residents are asked to clear snow from the fire hydrants. This could be a matter of life or death for your family or a neighbor should a fire occur. We thank you in advance for your help.

Precautions:
- Expect maintenance vehicles to back up frequently.
- Never assume plow drivers can see you, their field of vision is limited.
- Stay 70 feet (4 car lengths) from the maintenance vehicle so the driver can see you.
- Place garbage or recycling containers away from the edge of the street so they do not get hit or covered.
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Please note that not all roadways in Jordan fall under the City’s jurisdiction. State and County highways are not plowed by City staff, so therefore, they may be plowed at different times than City streets.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience in observing the winter regulation rules.

Mailbox Replacements

In rare cases, a snowplow driver accidentally can knock over a mailbox during their snowplowing duties. In most cases, mail stand replacement is the responsibility of the homeowner. This is true if the mailbox was already in poor condition or the stand was not sturdy enough to survive cold temperatures or heavy snow. However, if the mailbox was in good condition and then struck by a snow plow, then the City would be responsible for its replacement. A temporary box may be installed until spring.
City Hall Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

www.jordan.govoffice.com

City Council Meetings
1st Monday—6:30 P.M.
3rd Monday—6:30 P.M.

2011 City Council Members
Mayor Pete Ewals
Jeremy Goebel
Thom Boncher
Mike Shaw
Joe Thill
Tanya Velishek
Sally Schultz

Jordan Food Shelf

The Food Shelf is located at 131 E. First Street and is open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. except for the Holiday Schedule below:
“Open”- Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010 5 p.m.—8 p.m.
“Closed”-Saturday Dec. 25, 2010
“Closed”-Saturday, January 1, 2011
Since its inception in October 2009, the food shelf has served a total of 361 families which amounts to 103,904 pounds of food. For more information, call 952-564-4718. Special thanks to all the food shelf volunteers for their dedicated service and to the community for their contributions.

Christmas Tree Pickup

Elite Waste Disposal will be picking up Christmas trees curbside on the dates listed below. Please place your trees trunkside facing the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the following dates: January 5, 6, 19 and 20. All trees must be free of ornaments, bags, stands, etc. prior to pickup. There is no cost to residents.

Skating Hours

The hockey rink at Lagoon Park should be open before Christmas with hours of operation from noon until 10:00 p.m. Lagoon Pond skating will be open when there is 8-10 inches of ice on the pond. Hours are also noon until 10:00 p.m.

Field 2

This fall was a busy time at the high school Field 2 project. Numerous volunteers dedicated their time and talent to the endeavor and players will be able to use the field next spring/summer. A dedication ceremony will be held sometime in the spring. The City of Jordan is proud to be a part of this cooperative effort.