



Frequently Asked Questions: Enforcement of Snow Route Parking Ban

How long will people have to move their vehicles before enforcement begins after a “Snow Event” declaration has been made and a Snow Route Parking Ban is in effect?

Calgarians are expected to move their vehicles from Snow Routes immediately after a snow event has been declared and vehicles are susceptible to enforcement measures.

If there is a chance of heavy snow, the City will issue a “snow event advisory” to warn the public that snow is expected and Snow Route Parking Bans will likely be put into effect. In that event, Calgarians are urged to be proactive and remove their vehicles from the street as soon as possible in advance of a Snow Route Parking Ban being declared.

If one area of the city gets a lot of snow but another area doesn’t, are the Snow Route Parking Bans still in effect city-wide?

Yes. When a Snow Route Parking Ban is declared, it will be in effect city-wide.

How will the CPA enforce Snow Route Parking Bans?

Enforcement will only occur after a “snow event” has been declared by the City of Calgary Traffic Engineer and will be coordinated with the City’s snow clearing operations.

The CPA will provide snow event parking enforcement for high priority locations as identified by the City of Calgary snow clearing crews.

The CPA will only dispatch an officer to specific complaint locations once these areas have been patrolled. The Snow Event Traffic Bylaw allows for tagging and towing of vehicles found in violation.

CPA will tow if it is confirmed that a vehicle is parked in a hazardous manner, is blocking a travel lane, or is inhibiting the safety of the City of Calgary snow clearing crews.

What will happen to my vehicle if I am out of town and a Snow Route Parking Ban is put in effect?

City streets and alleys are not intended for the long term storage of vehicles and all Calgarians are responsible for moving their vehicles off Snow Routes during snow events. If you are going to be out of town, please ensure your car is moved off the street in case of a snow event. Alternatively, ask a friend or neighbour to move your car for you if a Snow Route Parking Ban is announced. This is similar to a summer time process that involves paving a roadway where vehicles are required to move on a limited time notification basis.

What will happen to my vehicle if I do not move it during a Snow Route Parking Ban? Will parking tags be issued? Will vehicles be towed and if so, where will they be towed?

Every effort will be made to ensure that citizens are aware of where Snow Route Parking Bans exist and when they are in effect.

Vehicles left in a parking restricted area are subject to enforcement measures up to and including a parking tag and tow. Vehicles will not be towed around the corner off the Snow Route; rather, they will be impounded. If you believe your vehicle is missing due to a Snow Route Parking Ban infraction you can verify this with the Municipal Impound Lot at (403) 537-7111.

My street has been plowed. Can I park my car on the road again?

It is not recommended. Snow plows often return to the same locations multiple times to ensure the snow is cleared as thoroughly as possible. Snow Route Parking Bans are in effect for 72 hours following a declaration or when a ban has been lifted. If you are unsure if you can park, check Calgary.ca/snow or call 3-1-1 to find out if the Snow Route Parking Ban is still in effect.

Are there any exceptions to Snow Route parking bans?

Yes. Snow Routes located in ParkPlus zones and downtown will be exempt from the Snow Route parking ban during the day. When a Snow Event is declared, parking will be banned in these areas from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. only. Existing parking controls will continue to be in effect at all times.

What are my options for finding alternative parking in the city during a Snow Route Parking Ban?

Calgarians living and/or working on Snow Routes are encouraged to find alternate parking in a garage, underground parkade, surface lot or on secondary side streets. The Calgary Parking Authority will also provide free overnight parking in its parkades and surface lots between 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM during Snow Route Parking Bans.

Can I park in my back alley during a Snow Route Parking Ban?

Parking will be permitted in back alleys outside the Central Traffic Zone during a Snow Route Parking Ban, so long as:

- The alley is wider than 6.1 metres and there are no pre-existing parking restrictions in the laneway.
- Vehicles are not parked within 1.5 metres of, or directly across from, a driveway or garage.
- Vehicles are not parked within 1 metre of the sides of garbage or recycling containers.
- Vehicles are not parked in a manner where the vehicle may interfere with the use of a doorway marked on the exterior as a fire or emergency exit from any building.
- Vehicles are not parked within 3 metres of an electrical transformer.
- A Minimum of 3 metres of clearance is maintained on either side of the vehicle to allow others to get through the alley unobstructed. See the Traffic Bylaw for more information.

Are there any exemptions to Snow Route Parking Bans?

Yes. Business Revitalization Zones (BRZ) with ParkPlus Zones (paid parking zones) and the downtown core will be exempt from the Snow Route Parking Ban during the day. Existing parking controls will continue to be in effect at all times. BRZs will only have overnight bans from 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM. Parking will be restricted in the downtown core on the avenues between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM and vehicles must still be in compliance with existing parking controls. See the [Snow Route locations and exemptions map](#) for more information.

Will designated Handicap on-street parking be impacted during a snow event?

On-street Handicap zones located along Snow Routes will be excluded from the Snow Route Parking Ban at all times. In order for a vehicle to be parked in a Handicap zone, it must still display a valid Handicap permit.