

Take Care of Your Sidewalk

Walking is Olympia's most popular form of active recreation. Help maintain our sidewalks and keep Olympia walkable!



Please don't park your car on the sidewalk.

Parked cars block the way of pedestrians and can damage the sidewalk causing cracks and an uneven surface.

Keep sidewalks clear of snow.

Sometimes walking or riding the bus is the best way to travel when the streets are covered in snow. Next time it snows, please clear the sidewalk along your property.

Think of all types of pedestrians.

Even if you think a person could walk around or over something on the sidewalk, it might be difficult or impossible for a person using a wheelchair or walking aid, or someone pushing a stroller.

Avoid placing garbage and recycling carts in the sidewalk.

Please place your garbage and recycling carts in the planter strip or parking lane for pick up. Please do not obstruct the sidewalk with your cart, unless there is no other space next to the street.

Clear sidewalks of vegetation.

Trim back trees and shrubs that grow over the sidewalk. Keep the surface clean all year. Rake up leaves in the fall and remove any moss. See reverse.

Organize a work party.

Work with other residents on your block to organize a work party to clear your sidewalks of vegetation. The City may be able to provide arborist advice, yard waste collection and pressure washing.

Take action.

Talk to your neighbors about what they can do, or contact the City to report safety concerns and obstructions.



Please contact us with questions:

Sidewalks blocked by vegetation	360.753.8487
Sidewalks blocked by cars	360.753.8300
Report needed sidewalk repair	360.753.8487
Street tree questions	360.753.8301
New sidewalk construction	360.753.8497
Pedestrian safety	360.753.8575

Repair and Clear Your Sidewalk

Steps for Sidewalk Repair

City code requires a property owner to repair the sidewalk adjacent to their property. See *Olympia Municipal Code* 12.36.010.

Find a Contractor for Concrete Work

Consider contacting three concrete contractors for estimates before you select one. Use contractors that are insured and bonded, for your protection.

Tree Removal and Replacement

If a tree on your property is causing damage to the sidewalk, an arborist or tree maintenance company can perform that work.

The City can provide you with a list of recommended trees for the planting strip. Contact the City's Urban Forester to discuss your situation before you proceed 360.753.8301.

Obtain a Right-of-way Permit

You will need a permit to do work in the public right-of-way. The permit fee will be waived for your sidewalk repair. See contact information below.

Utilize City Specifications for Sidewalks

The sidewalk must be built to City specifications. A City Inspector will inspect the sidewalk after the work is done to make sure it meets specifications. This is for public safety.

For permits and City Sidewalk Specifications, contact the Community Planning and Development Department at 360.753.8314, or stop by the 2nd floor of City Hall, 601 4th Avenue East.

Clearing Vegetation from Sidewalks

City Code also requires property owners to remove vegetation from the sidewalk. See *Olympia Municipal Code* 8.24.050.

Trim Bushes, Trees and Shrubs

Please trim bushes and trees that grow into or over the sidewalk.

- Trim back vegetation a minimum of 6 inches from the edge of the sidewalk.
- When trimming, imagine a clear corridor the width of the sidewalk up to 10 feet over the sidewalk, as shown in the photo below.



- Winter is a good time to prune trees and shrubs because the plants are dormant.
- Summer can also be a good time to clear pedestrian passageways, as branches may be lowered into sidewalks by the weight of leaves.
- Avoid pruning just as the leaves are breaking out of the bud. This will cause sap to run out of the pruning wound. While this is not usually damaging to the tree or shrub, it attracts insect pests and provides a good breeding ground for bacteria and fungi spores.