



FACTORS THAT EFFECT SNOW REMOVAL TIMING:

We often receive phone calls from clients who are frustrated or concerned with the timeliness of our snow removal service. The information listed below may help clarify some of the constraints that all snow removal companies contend with during snow cycles.

In general, it takes us between four and eight hours to complete our primary snow removal pass. The five factors listed below have a drastic impact on our snow removal timeliness.

AMOUNT OF SNOW: It takes longer to move more snow. We can zip through a three-inch snowstorm quickly, but a two-foot dump takes a while for snow removal equipment to move. Compare this to the difference in time it takes you to shovel three inches from your deck versus two feet.

BERMS: During a large storm, about 25% of the time we spend clearing your driveway is spent clearing the berm. Our overall route timeliness is dramatically impacted by the berms the Town of Truckee deposits across the mouth of your driveway. Again, large berms take considerable time and effort to move. The majority of the snow from the public roadway is pushed by the Town's snowplows off of the roadway. Much of this snow ends up in the opening of individual homeowner's driveways, creating the berm. In addition to clearing the natural snowfall in your driveway, private snow removal contractors need to also move the snow from the roadway (in the form of the berm). SnowTech is researching various types of equipment that may assist the Town of Truckee in reducing the size of driveway-blocking berms.

TIMING OF SNOWSTORMS: Snowstorms are unpredictable and arrive at any time of the day. With a few of exceptions, we begin snow removal operations when we receive three to four inches of snow. As often as possible we try to work in the early hours of the morning because this reduces our liability and exposure to vehicle traffic and allows us to work quickly with few obstructions. But there are times when we cannot begin snow removal until dictated by the weather. A number of times this past season Tahoe Donner did not receive three to four inches until about 6:00 am to 9:00 am. In each of these cases we started snow removal operations within one to one-and-a-half hours from receiving the required snow depth. On days such as these we frequently receive calls from homeowners telling us their driveway hasn't been cleared. What these homeowners may not realize is that the snow accumulated late in the morning and didn't allow the snow removal companies to begin clearing driveways during nighttime hours.

EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS: Snow removal is an equipment-intensive business. As such, snow removal companies are subject to various equipment breakdowns, including broken hydraulic hoses, flat tires, broken welds, etc. We counter these potential problems by maintaining back-up equipment, large spare parts inventories, in-field maintenance personnel and an aggressive preventive maintenance program during non-storm periods. Though breakdowns will always occur, we attempt to minimize their effect on SnowTech's timeliness and performance.

DEBRIS IN DRIVEWAYS: Our equipment often ingests items left in driveways by homeowners or their guests. We frequently suck up buried shovels, snow sleds, firewood, newspapers, dog leads and the like. Many of these occurrences are easily remedied and result in little equipment down-time. However, there are occasions when our equipment becomes disabled for extended periods of time or an in-field repair is not possible. Please help us insure timely snow removal by removing obstacles and debris from your driveway on snow days.

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Driveway Sealing

House/Deck Staining

Siding & Window Replacement

Construction/Carpentry

Snow Removal