

# Concrete Sidewalk Frost Repair

Your street is scheduled for road work. ⚠️

## What is Frost Repair?

Soils susceptible to frost, like silt and clay, shrink when they are frozen and expand when heated, causing severe cracks in the concrete sidewalk above. This creates hazardous sidewalks in winter months when freeze-thaw cycles are common, and poses a safety risk if left unrepaired.

## When is Frost Repair Completed?

Frost repair is a total reconstruction of the sidewalk and takes up to three weeks to finish, typically completed from July through October. Adhering to the City of Calgary's Noise By-law regulations for construction, sidewalk cutting is done during the following designated hours:

- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday
- 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday and Statutory holidays

While sidewalks may look relatively undamaged in warmer months, frost damage usually appears during the colder months of November through April.

## How is Frost Repair Completed?

Frost repair work contracts are publicly tendered and awarded to pre-qualified contractors. The following steps outline the basic process of repairing a frost-damaged sidewalk:

- Once a site with frost damage has been identified for repair, you should receive a notice from a contractor approximately one week before repairs begin on your sidewalk. The damaged sidewalk is removed and excavated.
- As an additional frost damage precaution, a sub drain may be necessary to help remove groundwater from the area and divert it to a catch basin. If required, additional excavation for a drainpipe is done and the drainpipe is installed. Gravel is then layered over the drainpipe.
- The wooden forms are set into place and a second layer of gravel is added. The gravel is compacted to minimize shifting soil and subsequent sidewalk cracking. The rebar is installed and adjusted appropriately.
- Next, the concrete is poured over a base with a minimum thickness, making the sidewalk less susceptible to frost and cracking. Once it has been given time to cure, the finished sidewalk is ready for use. With this process completed, sidewalks can last up to 25 years with little maintenance.

## Contractor Responsibilities

Frost repair involves removing damaged sections of sidewalks, driveways, and adjacent grass and gutter roadway. To minimize the impact of frost repair on property owners, sprinkler systems, streetlights, private walkways, and driveways affected by the work are inspected prior to excavation. Additional work that may be necessary will be scheduled. After laying the new sidewalk, the contractor will repair any damage to your grass, gutter, or walkway. The contractor will also ensure the following:

- A temporary wooden walkway will be set up if required, so you can safely cross the sidewalk to access your property during the construction period.
- If necessary, a temporary gravel driveway can be set up. Please contact the contractor on-site if you need a temporary driveway.
- Any special needs for access such as wheel chairs or medical requirements will be accommodated.

### What Can You do to Help?

- Read the notice delivered to your home one week prior to sidewalk construction. Review it and follow any instructions to ensure safety and efficiency.
- Do not park on your driveway or on your street for the dates specified in the notice.
- If your neighbourhood experiences streetlamp outages during sidewalk replacements, please notify The City by calling 3-1-1. An Enmax crew will be dispatched to repair streetlights.
- Do not drive over or step on the new sidewalk until the contractor has removed all the equipment, barriers, and signs.
- If your property has an underground sprinkler system that is not readily visible, please notify the contractor before excavation begins to ensure it is not damaged during construction.

**If you have any additional questions please contact 311  
or visit [calgary.ca](http://calgary.ca) for more information.**

