Calgary

Your street is scheduled for sidewalk work.

Sidewalk Grinding

What is sidewalk grinding?

Sidewalk grinding is a quick, cost-effective way to repair concrete. A specialized grinder removes a small, raised edge where adjoining panels are uneven. This method is used to eliminate trip hazards by shaving down concrete slabs to create a smooth, tapered transition.

When is sidewalk grinding used?

Sidewalk grinding is primarily used to address minor vertical shifts caused by ground settling, seasonal freezing, or early-stage tree root intrusion. It is used when the concrete is in good condition, and the height difference can be safely removed without replacing the panel.

What are the benefits of sidewalk grinding?

- It is quick and efficient, with less disruption than a full sidewalk replacement.
- It reduces trip hazards while keeping the existing concrete panel in place.
- It limits excavation, material use, and disturbance to nearby landscaping.
- It provides a smooth, practical repair at a lower cost than replacement.

How is sidewalk grinding completed?

- Crews inspect the uneven joint and mark the raised edge.
- Cones, signs, or barricades are placed to help pedestrians move safely around the work area.
- A concrete grinder removes the raised portion gradually until the transition is smooth. Dust is controlled and debris is collected during work.
- The area is cleaned and inspected before the sidewalk is reopened.

What can you expect?

- Temporary noise and a short sidewalk restriction while the grinder is operating.
- A slightly textured or sloped area where the raised concrete was removed.
- Grinding addresses the uneven surface but does not correct underlying soil movement or tree root growth.

What can you do to help?

- Move vehicles, plants, furniture, and other items away from the sidewalk. The crew needs a clear path to walk their heavy machinery.
- Trim low branches, shrubs, grass or other vegetation that may obstruct equipment.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area.
- Follow all signs, cones, and directions from the crew.

If you have any additional questions, please contact 311 or visit calgary.ca for more information.