



Street Sweeping FAQ's

Why does the Town sweep the paved roads?

Keeping the streets clean benefits everyone. The street sweepers clean as much of each curb and gutter as possible to ensure that debris and pollutants are removed. The streets are kept cleaner when the sweeper has access to each curb and gutter, reducing the volume of pollutants entering the storm drain system.

What can I do as a business or resident to assist street sweeping?

Residents are encouraged to remove curb reducers, leaves, branches, dirt, garbage and debris routinely from curb and gutters. When mowing grass, position the mower so that grass clippings do not go onto the street into the gutter and into the storm water system.

Why does Public Works dry sweep the streets in the spring?

Dry sweeping is required for the first and in some cases second sweeps due to the large volume of sand, grit, and dirt that has accumulated on the road and in the gutters over the winter months. When water is added to the large volume of sand, grit, and dirt it turns to mud and plugs up the street sweeper.

What does Public Work do to try and mitigate the impact to residents when dry sweeping?

Public Works conducts the sweeping at night to mitigate impact to air quality where most people are not in the immediate area.

Dry sweeping causes dust to settle within my private property, does the Town do this on purpose to frustrate people?

We apologize for the inconvenience; it is necessary for the Town to clean the paved roads and remove debris reducing the amount entering the storm drain system reducing the capacity of the underground pipes and restricting the flow of water or causing water to back up during heavy rain fall events.

When will Public Works start using water as part of the street sweeping operations?

Once the heavy bulk of the material has been removed from the streets, the sweeper can then utilize water to mitigate fine dust.

Why did the street sweeper leave large debris piles behind?

Street sweeping machines are intended to collect dirt, sand and fine media. Large objects can damage the equipment which is why our operators are instructed to avoid any large debris pile where the contents cannot be visually confirmed. Residents are encouraged not to leave any debris piles in the roadway or gutter.

Can Public Works Sweepers use more water to clean the street?

The street sweeper is equipped with water tanks and water spraying nozzles for the sole purpose of mitigating fine dust produced by sweeping operations.

What if I didn't know about street sweeping and didn't remove my vehicle?

No problem, the street sweeper will clean this area the next time they sweep.

Can Public Works sweep sidewalks?

Public Works does not sweep sidewalks. Owners of lots or portions of lots fronting on any portion of public sidewalk are tasked with the sweeping the sidewalk if necessary.

Why doesn't Public Works put out Signs every time they sweep?

Sometimes emergencies come up that were not planned, and planned activities cannot be completed (e.g. SCADA System failure at Water Treatment Plant, water main breaks, etc.).

The sweeper was scheduled to come today but did not show up?

We apologize for the inconvenience; it is possible our street sweeper experiencing a mechanical breakdown, the weather conditions changed, or an overarching emergency took priority.