“Shovel your sidewalks but not into the streets”

It’s one of the facts of life of living in Norfolk, Nebraska. When it snows, you have to shovel your sidewalks. It’s a safety issue and a City of Norfolk ordinance requires citizens to scoop their sidewalks clear of snow within 24 hours of a snowfall. Jim Dooley, City of Norfolk Operations Manager, reminds people they cannot scoop the snow onto the street or onto their neighbors’ property.

“We see homeowners using shovels, snow blowers and blades on ATVs to push snow into the city streets. It’s against the law to do that. Many times the snow plow has already been by so the snow is now a hindrance to safety. Vehicles either have to drive around it or over it compacting the snow and causing mounds of ice in the streets. Push the snow onto your lawn or somewhere else on your property,” Dooley said.

According to City Ordinance 14-43, any person who “deposits, throws, discards, or otherwise disposes of any litter, including snow or ice, on any public or private property, street, alley, or other public way or in any waters, commits the offense of littering.” The fine for littering is $50.

“Fortunately we haven’t had a lot of snow these past few years. We have a lot of winter to go yet and we may have some significant snows so it’s a good idea to make a plan now for how you’re going to clear the snow from your driveway and walks. It’s fine if you hire someone to do it or have equipment that makes the job easier. Just make sure the snow from your property stays off the public streets, alleys and other people’s property,” Dooley said.

For more information about snow removal go to www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/Street.