

WINTER READINESS

What a Public Facility Snow and Ice Removal Contract Should Include

Winter weather in Washington DC and Maryland can close schools, recreation centers and government offices with only a few hours of notice. A clear snow and ice removal contract is what keeps those buildings open and safe. Here is what agency facility managers and prime contractors should look for before the first storm.

- 01 A defined site map and priority list**

Every contract should name each site, the surfaces to be cleared (entrances, sidewalks, ADA ramps, parking lots, loading docks) and the order in which they are cleared. Priority one areas are usually building entrances, accessible routes and emergency exits.
- 02 Trigger depth and response time**

The contract should state the snowfall depth that starts service, how soon crews must arrive after that trigger, and how often they return during an ongoing storm. Without these numbers, timely means different things to the buyer and the contractor.
- 03 Pre treatment and de icing**

Ask whether the contractor pre treats surfaces before a forecast event, which materials are used, and how they protect concrete, landscaping and storm drains.
- 04 Equipment and staffing**

Request a list of the plows, salt spreaders and hand crews committed to your sites, plus a backup plan if equipment fails or a storm runs longer than expected.
- 05 Communication and documentation**

Strong contracts require a named supervisor, storm start and completion notices, and a service log with times and photos. Logs protect both parties if a slip and fall claim is filed.
- 06 Pricing structure**

Common models are per push, per event, per season, and time and materials. Each one shifts weather risk differently between the buyer and the contractor, so match the model to your budget and your tolerance for unpredictable winters.

07 Insurance and compliance

Confirm general liability coverage, any required certifications, and the subcontracting plan if the work counts toward DC CBE or Maryland MBE participation goals.

HOW CAN HELPS

CAN Management Enterprise provides snow and ice removal for schools, recreation centers and municipal properties in the District of Columbia, clearing sidewalks, entrances, parking lots and pathways with plowing, salting and de icing. CAN is a women owned firm, certified as a DC Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) and a Maryland Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) through MDOT.

To discuss your winter plan or a teaming opportunity, email Info@canmgmtus.com or call 202-297-5854.

This brief offers general guidance and is not legal advice. Contract terms should be reviewed against your agency procurement rules.