

4. Comparison Table of Snow Clearance Ordinances in the Boston Region

Safe Sidewalks, a coalition of groups in the City of Newton, researched how other communities currently handle the issue of sidewalk snow clearance. The table below is of 11 communities within Route 128 that have residential sidewalk snow clearing ordinances. Safe Sidewalks found that compliance was more likely to be higher if communities actively enforce their ordinances or policies. Although not consistent as a variable, communities with high compliance levels also had multiple examples of educational materials that went to all residents (e.g., via tax or water bills) and were posted on municipal websites.²

Municipality	Time Allotted for Residents	Residential Fine
Arlington	8 hours	\$25
Boston	3-6 hours	\$50-\$100
Brookline	30 hours	\$25
Cambridge	12 hours snow/6 hours ice	\$25 ³
Chelsea	24 hours	Cost to remove at expense of owner and liened to owner's tax bill.
Lynn	3 hours	\$50
Malden	24 hours	Cost of removal of violation and a fine up to \$300.
Medford	24 hours	\$25 first day and \$50 each successive day.
Salem	6 hours	\$25
Somerville	6 hours	\$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, and \$100 third offense.
Winthrop	6 hours	\$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, and \$100 third offense.

² Newton League of Women Voters, Safe Routes To School/PTO Council, Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities, Green Decade, Bike Newton. 'Sidewalk Snow and Pedestrian Safety – A Report on Three Years of Study', October 25, 2010.

³ Not in ordinance, but in practice.