Keep up to date on the latest winter weather information.
Baltimore City Snow Center [/transportation/snow-center]

Street sweeping operations depend on weather conditions. Extremely cold temperatures, snow, and ice may limit the effectiveness of DPW's mechanical street sweeping equipment. Changes or cancellations will be announced and posted here.



Heavy Equipment Deployed to Clear Icy Alleys as Trash Service Continues and Recycling Collection

on **February 1, 2026**

Prolonged freezing temperatures across Baltimore City have resulted in widespread ice accumulation in residential alleys, with ice layers measuring up to two to three inches thick. In many areas, conditions exceed what residents can safely or effectively address and require the use of specialized heavy equipment to restore access.

To support the resumption of alley-based trash and recycling collection and to protect public safety, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) will begin a dedicated citywide alley clearing operation on Sunday, February 1, at 7:00 a.m

DPW has engaged a private contractor to deploy bobcats and front-end loaders exclusively for alley clearing. Operations will be organized into four quadrants and will run daily from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** until alleys are sufficiently cleared.

Alley clearing will align with the City's regular trash collection schedule, beginning with **Tuesday routes** and progressing sequentially through the remainder of the week. Because trash and recycling share the same collection access points, once a trash route is cleared, it will remain accessible for recycling collection. Following clearing, alleys will be treated with salt to reduce the risk of refreezing.

Work will conclude each evening at 7:00 p.m. due to varying alley lighting conditions and to limit disruption in residential neighborhoods.

DPW does **not** anticipate that alleys will be fully cleared in time for the upcoming week's scheduled collections. Residents should continue to follow routine collection guidance during this period.

Routine Collection Updates

Due to the time required to complete alley clearing, **alley access will remain unavailable for collections this week.** As a result, DPW will continue trash and recycling collection using the modified approach implemented last week:

- Trash and recycling should be placed **in front of the residence or at the side of the alley**
- **Recycling collection will resume this week**
- **Streetsweeping services remain suspended due to freezing temperatures**
- Collection days will follow the normal schedule
- Missed trash or recycling collections should be reported to **311**, and crews will work to address them as conditions allow
- If alley clearing progresses faster than anticipated, DPW may resume alley collections later in the week

Residential Recycling Centers will remain **open and operational** for residents who choose to drop off trash or recycling directly.

DPW appreciates residents' continued patience as crews work through these severe winter conditions and remains focused on restoring safe access and maintaining reliable service citywide.

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