

# Background

Markers used by private snow plow contractors to identify their customers' driveways are prohibited by various Ottawa by-laws. However, a pilot program has been in place during recent winters to allow them on a trial basis, subject to specific guidelines.

The guidelines (detailed below) are primarily intended to standardize the use, locations and appearance of these markers, protect residents and the City's snow clearing and removal equipment from unsafe installations, and minimize disruptions to neighbourhoods. They are communicated to snow plow contractors when they apply for or renew their annual business licenses.

Guideline	Detail
Earliest marker installation date	October 20
Latest date markers to be removed	April 30
Prohibited location	Not on an outer boulevard (area between a sidewalk and the travelled portion of the street)
Permitted location on property (where there is a sidewalk)	Minimum 0.61 m (2 feet) from sidewalk
Permitted location on property (where there is no sidewalk)	Minimum 1.22 metres (4 feet) from the travelled portion of the street
Maximum height of marker	1.22 metres (4 feet), measured from the ground
Maximum width of marker	10.1 centimetres (4 inches)
Permitted material of marker	Wood, plastic, or fiberglass – cannot be supported by metal bars
Maximum number of markers	2 (one on either side of the driveway)
Permitted information on marker	Company logo and telephone number only – no advertising or other information

There has been a high rate of compliance with the existing guidelines, and relatively few complaints, during the pilot program. Most complaints have related to non-compliance with the guidelines (too early installation, too close to the street, metal markers, etc.). At the same time, company information displayed on markers has been useful in identifying contractors illegally dumping snow on City streets/sidewalks.

# Consultation

**The City is now looking to formalize the rules for snow plow driveway markers and is seeking feedback.**

Your comments on the current guidelines should be sent by e-mail to Leslie Charles at [leslie.charles@ottawa.ca](mailto:leslie.charles@ottawa.ca). Or you can complete an online [survey](#) to let us know what you think.

The deadline for comments is July 20, 2017.

## ONLINE SURVEY

### Current Guidelines:

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### Information about you

- Are you:
  - A resident
  - A commercial business
  - A snow plow contractor
  - Other (please specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you use a snow plow contractor to clear your driveway?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
- If you use a snow plow contractor, does s/he use driveway markers?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable

### Your feedback on the current guidelines

- The current guidelines are reasonable.
  - I agree
  - I do not agree (please indicate why)\_\_\_\_\_
- Should there be additional restrictions?
  - No
  - Yes (please specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Should driveway markers be prohibited entirely?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Comments?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any additional comments?

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