

Concrete Sidewalk Cutting

Your street is scheduled for road work.



What is Sidewalk Cutting?

Sidewalk panels can settle unevenly due to soil conditions beneath the concrete and create tripping hazards. A cost effective and visually appealing alternative to sidewalk panel replacement, concrete sidewalk cutting is an efficient way to eliminate trip hazards on sidewalks. Areas near poplar trees are targeted for cutting because they have shallow roots that cause lifting, and the trees are typically found in areas with high pedestrian traffic. It takes no more than 15 minutes to identify, cut, and clean a trip hazard. The process leaves surrounding landscape undisturbed and does not significantly alter the look of the sidewalk, leaving it smooth and safe for residents and pedestrians.

When is Sidewalk Cutting Completed?

Sidewalk cutting begins once the frost is out of the ground in June and lasts through the construction season until October. Adhering to the City of Calgary's Noise Bylaw regulations for construction, sidewalk cutting is done during the following designated hours:

- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday
- 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday and Statutory holidays

Although sidewalk cutting can be done in light rain, it cannot be completed in excessive rain due to environmentally hazardous runoff from dust and slurry by-products. Sidewalk cutting contracts are publicly tendered and awarded to pre-qualified contractors.

How is Sidewalk Cutting Completed?

1. Once a trip hazard has been identified, the protruding edge is marked with white spray paint.
2. Next, a tractor with a saw mounted at the rear is positioned above the uneven edge and the blade is lowered to begin cutting. The saw blade proceeds in a left to right motion until the cut is completed. Water is used to cool the blade and reduce dust.
3. Finally, the water and concrete powder solution left over from the cut is vacuumed away to ensure run-off and byproducts do not enter the drainage system, making this an environmentally friendly procedure.
4. Once the sidewalk is level and the area has been cleaned, the crews can move to a new location to continue cutting.

What Can You do to Help?

- Ensure any children are supervised when in proximity to the construction area.
- Exercise caution while driving near the cutting operation and crew.

If you have any additional questions please contact 311 or visit calgary.ca for more information.