

Helpful Winter Safety Tips When On Campus

VCC Safety and Security Committee

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

With winter weather on its way, take a moment to familiarize yourself with a few winter weather tips and precautions. While on campus, take extra time to review the conditions and prepare yourself for your walk.

Facilities Management contractors will remove snow and apply salt to exterior locations according to a priority system aimed at supporting public safety and access to VCC's campuses in an effort to reduce slip and fall hazards.

Priorities vary from campus to campus but are generally in the following order:

- Priority 1: Main entrances, egress points, stairs, landings, city sidewalk curb cuts, interior walkways
- Priority 2: City sidewalks. (Subject to City Bylaw No. 2849, Section 76)
- Priority 3: Parking lots, driveways, loading bays

Priority 2 & 3 response may be delayed due to event intensity, severity, or duration. Always choose the safest route. Some areas of the College may not be entirely cleared as snow may be piled to provide clearance for pathways.

Conditions can change rapidly, it's important that you are aware of the conditions in front of you at all times.

Tips and precautions

- Understand the hazards of winter conditions and take precautions to ensure your own safety
- Be aware of recent and current winter conditions that may affect walking surfaces
- Wear appropriate non-slip tread footwear suitable for slippery winter conditions
- Do not wear shoes with plastic or leather soles in slippery conditions
- Wear appropriate winter clothing
- During hours of darkness, wear something bright so you can be seen
- Prepare in advance, plan your route, leave plenty of extra time
- Pay attention to where you are walking and the prevailing conditions in front of you
- Be fully alert and undistracted while walking, do not text/email while walking
- Take your time and walk with shorter steps at a slower pace
- Don't rush, never run on wet or icy surfaces
- Keep both hands free for balance and don't walk with your hands in your pockets
- Avoid carrying large objects that obstruct your vision
- Avoid carrying heavy items, they can make you lose your balance
- Use shoulder straps on bags and backpacks to keep your hands free
- Choose the safest paths of travel taking alternate routes that are open and clear
- Walk on surfaces that have been cleared or treated
- Do not take shortcuts across uncleared, unplowed, or untreated space
- Do not walk over or around areas that have been blocked off or barricaded
- Hold onto handrails while going up and down stairways both outside and inside
- Walk through buildings and take elevators even if it takes a little longer
- Use main building entrances, they will be first to be cleared
- Use the walk off floor mats when entering buildings, they help remove moisture from shoes
- Report slippery areas that need further attention