



Taking Care of Sidewalks

Sidewalks are a valuable part of our neighborhoods and enhance your property's value. When sidewalks lift up, sink, or have large cracks, they pose a trip hazard to pedestrians.

Sidewalk damage typically occurs over time and may be caused by tree roots, the ground settling or from cars parked on the sidewalk.

City Code

City code requires **property owners** to repair the sidewalk adjacent to their property (*Olympia Municipal Code 12.36.0101 - Unfit Sidewalk - Order to Repair*).

The code also states that the planter strip between the sidewalk and the street is the adjacent property owner's responsibility to maintain. (*Engineering Design and Development Standards, 2.040*)

Resources

For questions about the City's code, contact Code Enforcement at 360.753.8487.

Learn more about street trees at the City's Urban Forestry webpage or calling the Urban Forester at 360.753.8301.



A sidewalk on San Francisco Avenue.



Cracks can be trip hazards.



Lifted sidewalks can also pose a hazard.

Sidewalk Repairs (continued)

Property Owner Guide

You may repair your sidewalk by:

- grinding down the section that's lifted, or
- replacing the damaged panels.

Depending on the extent of the damage, you might do the work yourself or you may decide to hire a contractor.

- **Find a Contractor for Concrete Work**

For grinding or replacement repairs, consider contacting three concrete contractors for estimates before you select one. For your protection, use contractors that are insured and bonded.

- **Address Tree Issues**

Many damaged sidewalks are caused by tree roots. Trees in planter strips or in your yard may need to be removed and replaced. An arborist or tree maintenance company can evaluate whether root pruning or tree removal is needed. Contact the City's Urban Forester, at 360.753.8301, to discuss your situation before you proceed.

- **Obtain a permit**

For public safety, sidewalks must be built to City specifications. A permit is needed to do the work, but the permit fee will be waived for the sidewalk repair. Specifications and permits are available through the City's Community Planning & Development Department (CP&D) located on the 2nd floor of City Hall at 601 4th Avenue, 360.753.8314.



A sidewalk that's been repaired by grinding.



Sidewalk replacement work completed by a contractor, hired by homeowner.

