



SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

County of Yuba
Department of Public Works

Properly maintained sidewalks and curb ramps promote safety and accessibility for all Yuba County residents and visitors. This creates more desirable neighborhoods, allows for ease of access to commercial areas, and promotes healthy lifestyles.

KEEPING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEAR

Removing obstacles from sidewalks, and keeping the right-of-way clear, helps enhance accessibility and prevents visibility issues. This includes removing or maintaining over grown brush, shrubs and trees. Improperly parked cars, trashcans, and basketball hoops are just a few examples of obstacles that could cause dangerous walking conditions.

Keeping sidewalks clear promotes safety and accessibility.



MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS

Broken, lifted, or damaged sidewalks are not only an eyesore, they have the potential to cause harm to those utilizing them. When sidewalks have spacing cracks, and/or grade displacement, it can cause a pedestrian's footing to become unbalanced. This could result in a trip, slip or fall.

In Yuba County, and like many municipalities in California, the property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks abutting their property. Per Yuba County Sidewalk Repair Ordinance No. 1593 section 11.28.060 (a), "The owners of lots or portions of lots adjacent to or fronting on any portion of a sidewalk area along owner's property frontage up to the back of curb line, including parking strips, sidewalks, landscaping/hardscape, and persons in possession of such lots by virtue of any permit shall repair and maintain such sidewalk areas..."

SIDEWALK INSPECTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Sidewalk inspections are initiated when a complaint is filed with Public Works. That means a property owner or concerned citizen must request the action. Once a complaint is filed, Public Works is obligated by law to notify the property owner and oversee the repairs.



When the inspector is at the complaint site, they will inspect the entire area. The general rule of thumb is *50 to 75 feet in either direction* of the complaint inspection site. The inspector shall inspect the sidewalk in question and determine if there are any deficiencies that warrant repairs. Deficiencies that warrant repair may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Vertical separation of more than one-half (1/2) inch.**
- 2. Holes or openings in a break or construction joint of one (1) inch or more.**
- 3. Breaking away or spalling of concrete with a depth of more than one-half (1/2) inch.**
- 4. The sidewalk has a dip that causes water to pond that may cause a slipping hazard.**
- 5. Settlement has caused the longitudinal slope to exceed 5%.**

If the inspection determines that sidewalk deficiencies exist, and they are in need of repair, the Public Works Department shall notify the adjacent property owner in writing.

In accordance with Yuba County Ordinance No. 1593, the *required maintenance and repair of sidewalk areas shall be completed within sixty (60) days from the time of notice*. The Superintendent of Streets (Director of Public Works) may in his or her discretion, and for sufficient cause, extend the period of commencement to ninety (90) days from the time of notice.

COMPLETING THE WORK

Prior to starting any repairs, the property owner **must obtain an encroachment permit** from Yuba County Public Works. An online application can be found [here](#).

The choice to hire a contractor, or do the work yourself, is at the property owner's discretion. All repairs **MUST** meet County Standards set forth in the Yuba County Standard Plans (located [here](#)), Sidewalk and Driveway Repair Detail (attached), and Sidewalk Repair Specifications (attached). Temporary repairs, such as fillers and covers, are not acceptable.



The goal of Public Works is to work with property owners during the sidewalk repair process. The encroachment permit allows for a pre-construction meeting and final inspection, both of which are required. If additional questions or clarification is needed, the County is happy to work with the property owner, and/or contractor, to ensure proper communication. The best way to reach Public Works is by email at publicworks@co.yuba.ca.us or by phone at 530-749-5420.

SIDEWALK REPAIR SPECIFICATIONS

If the property owner is to make the repairs, or hire a licensed contractor to make the repairs, the sidewalk repairs shall be performed as follows:

1. Pursuant to Yuba County Sidewalk Repair Ordinance Section 11.28.060, the required maintenance and repair of sidewalk areas shall be completed within sixty (60) days from the time the notice is given.
2. The sections of sidewalk, which are in need of repair, shall be removed and disposed of properly.
3. Replacement concrete shall be in accordance with Yuba County Standard Plan 202 or per CalTrans Standard Specification Section 90-2, "Minor Concrete".
4. Sidewalk shall be constructed in accordance with Yuba County Standard Plan 202.
5. Sidewalk joint and finish details shall match existing, with no greater spacing than Yuba County Standard Plan 208.
6. The final product is subject to approval by Yuba County Public Works and shall, at a minimum, present a smooth, unbroken surface between the previously existing concrete surface and the replacement portions, where the two adjoin each other.
7. Sidewalk shall be repaired or reconstructed, regardless of recent repairs or construction, matching the width, grid pattern and coloring of the historic character within the neighborhood.
8. **Property owner/contractor performing repairs must obtain an encroachment permit prior to starting any repairs. The encroachment permit will cover a form inspection prior to placement of the concrete, and a final finish inspection upon completion of the work.**

- 9.** The person/contractor performing the repairs shall complete all backfill, remove all forms, and thoroughly clean up the job site, not less than twelve (12) hours after the replacement of the concrete is restored to its original condition.
- 10.** Upon failure of the person/contractor performing the repair to comply with any of the above specifications, Yuba County Public Works may cause the repairs to be completed in a satisfactory manner solely at the property owner's expense.
- 11.** The County shall not be responsible for any damages resulting directly or indirectly from any repair or other work performed by the property owner or by any person/contractor hired by the property owner.
- 12.** Dowel reinforcement shall be installed to join existing concrete to new concrete as directed by the Engineer. A typical dowel installation consists of a size No. 4 rebar epoxied four to six inches, and spaced 12 inches apart, in the existing concrete.

Grinding may be allowed with prior approval from Yuba County Public Works. Grinding repair shall not exceed 1.5” vertically. Grinding repair surface finish shall conform to the non-slip coefficient of friction per Caltrans Standard Specification section 40. This can be achieved by roughing the surface with a saw blade or other approved method.

HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

California Streets and Highway Code:

- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=SHC§ionNum=5610.
- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=5611.&nodeTreePath=9.3.24.2&lawCode=SHC
- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=5614.&nodeTreePath=9.3.24.2&lawCode=SHC
- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=5615.&nodeTreePath=9.3.24.2&lawCode=SHC

Yuba County Ordinance:

- https://library.municode.com/ca/yuba_county/ordinances/code_of_ordinance_s?nodeId=1056216

Yuba County Standard Plans & Specifications:

- https://www.yuba.org/departments/community_development/public_works/standard_plans/index.php
- <https://www.yuba.org/Yuba%20County/Community%20Development/Public%20Works/Construction/Std/200.pdf>
- <https://www.yuba.org/Yuba%20County/Community%20Development/Public%20Works/Construction/Std/202.pdf>
- <https://www.yuba.org/Yuba%20County/Community%20Development/Public%20Works/Construction/Std/208.pdf>

CalTrans Standard Specification and Construction Manual:

- <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/construction-manual/section-4-40-concrete-pavement>
- <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/construction-manual/section-4-90-concrete>