If you wish to request a payment plan for a sidewalk repair, you should hire a licensed contractor to fix the sidewalk and arrange for a tree inspection. DPR will notify the other party in your property for a small fee. All permit fees are non-refundable. You may also be required to pay for the repairs to sidewalks around street trees free of charge. This work must be coordinated with DPR by calling 311 and requesting a “Root and Sidewalk Consultation.” Please note that no street tree roots can be cut without written permission from DPR.

If you have received a Notice of Violation and the City repairs the sidewalk, the property owner will not be charged for the temporary flag damage. If the condition of the sidewalk is not improved, you will receive the request for replacement of the flag.

You may also call 311 and request “DDC Project Inquiries and Complaints” to check whether the contractor is working on an active City project. If there is no active project and you don’t know who damaged the sidewalk, you can request a search of permits issued on your property for a small fee. All permit search requests must be made in writing to:

NYC Department of Transportation
Office of Legislation Services
Freedom of Information Law Unit (FIL)
55 Water Street - 8th Floor, NY 10041

Please provide the time frame, the location and any other relevant details.

Claims for damage allegedly done by a City contractor should be filed with the Office of the Comptroller. Claims for damage allegedly done by a City contractor should be filed with the Office of the Comptroller. For all other boroughs: 30-30 Thompson Avenue (3rd floor, Long Island City, NY 11101)

You should specifically state the nature of the disagreement, the type of work, the amount of work that was done or the accuracy of the measurements used and the quality of work, the amount of work that was done or the accuracy of the measurements used and the quality of work. All appeals to the Office of the Comptroller will be made in writing. Telephone calls and personal visits will not be considered appeals. If you are not satisfied with the response, your next step is to file a Notice of Claim with the Office of the Comptroller. The notice must be filed within one year from receipt of the notice of account issued by the Office of the Comptroller. The notice must be filed within one year from receipt of the notice of account issued by the Office of the Comptroller. The notice must be filed within one year from receipt of the notice of account issued by the Office of the Comptroller. The notice must be filed within one year from receipt of the notice of account issued by the Office of the Comptroller. The notice must be filed within one year from receipt of the notice of account issued by the Office of the Comptroller. A claimant has 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice of account to file a claim. If the claimant does not file a claim within 60 days, the claim will be barred.

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Q&A to Common Sidewalk Violations:

1. What is a sidewalk defect?

According to section 7-101-5 of the NYC Administrative Code, any of the following shall be considered a defect which would result in a violation:

- One or more flag(s) - a square of sidewalk missing or a sidewalk was never built
- One or more flag(s) cracked to such an extent that one or more pieces of flag(s) may be loosened or readily removed
- For example, sidewalk flags with full depth cracks that extend from joint to joint, and are 1/4" wide or greater.
- An asphalt flag which is separated from its base by a sliver or a loose flag that sticks or sways.
- A flag border where the surface differences between adjacent sidewalk flags are greater than or equal to 1/2" where a sidewalk flag contains one or more surface defects of 1" or greater in all horizontal directions and a 1/2" or more in depth
- Impregnated slabs, which shall mean (flag(s) that do not drain toward the curb and retain water.
- (Flag(s) that must be replaced to provide for adequate drainage or a cross slope exceeding established standards.
- Hardware defects, which shall mean (hardware not flush within 1/2" of the sidewalk surface or (ii) cellar doors that deflect greater than 1" when walked on, are not skid resistant or are otherwise in a dangerous or unsafe condition.
- Defective loading structure (i) which shall mean a flag that has a common joint (not an expansion joint) with a detection flag, and (ii) that is a separate flag that meets from one joint to another joint.
- Non-compliance with DOT specifications for sidewalk construction.

2. What is a sidewalk violation?

A sidewalk violation is an official notice issued by DOT stating that your sidewalk is defective. There is no fine associated with a sidewalk violation. You must contact the County Clerk and remain on file until the Clerk receives your corrected notification. The majority of violations have been made. A violation can complicate selling or enhancing your property.

3. Why does the City issue sidewalk violations?

The City issues sidewalk violations in order to encourage property owners to repair their sidewalk to enhance public safety.

4. Why was my property inspected?

DOT determines which properties should be inspected based on the criteria set forth above. Inspections were reported to the City or where complaints were filed. Violations were issued in every neighborhood in the City.

5. I received a violation, but I don’t agree with it, what should I do?

Violations may occasionally be issued to an incorrect property. If you believe that the violation does not apply to your property, you may request a re-inspection.

6. I received a violation, but I don’t agree with it, what can I do?

If you look at your property and don’t agree with the markings, you may request a re-inspection within 45 days of receiving Notice of Violation. For a re-inspection, call 311 and ask for “Sidewalk Violation Search” in order to check if the Violation was issued incorrectly.

7. What is a re-inspection?

A re-inspection is an official re-inspection of the sidewalk by a different inspector who does not have access to the PIR. You will be notified by mail, at least five days before the re-inspection date. Inspectors will not come to your door as they are prohibited from seeking out property owners when conducting re-inspections. This is your final inspection. The result of the re-inspection will be mailed to you.

8. Does every flag marked with a number on the PIR have to be replaced?

The flags that are marked with numbers on the PIR will need to be replaced, and any defects must be corrected. In addition, if any of the flag(s) are cracked (i.e. have any free-standing flags marked as DB - Double Boarded - will be replaced. Free-standing flags tags are beam-related and used for a necessary repair. Non-compliance with DOT specifications for sidewalk construction.

9. What should I do if I once receive a violation?

DOF recommends the following:

- If you receive a copy of a violation from a contractor, and you believe that you are the property owner, you may request a re-inspection.
- Once you have hired a contractor, make sure they obtain all necessary permits before beginning the work.
- If you choose to do the work yourself, then you must follow all DOT Specifications and complete all work by the cost per square foot for that area, otherwise use the 7" concrete cost for that area.

The final bill may reflect additional repairs required to bring the sidewalk up to DOT standard specifications.

10. If I take out a permit, does it give me an extension?

Yes. A contractor should be scheduled to begin repairs within 45 days of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

11. Does every flag marked with a number on the PIR have to be replaced?

Yes. A contractor should be scheduled to begin repairs within 45 days of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

12. If I don’t do anything within 45 days of receipt of the violation, what will happen?

If you do not perform the work within the 45 days, the City may perform the work or cause the work to be performed by one of its contractors, and bill you for the cost. There is no fine or penalty associated with a sidewalk violation.

13. I got the violation in the winter, and I want to do the work privately, do I have to get the work started within 45 days?

Yes. A contractor should be scheduled to begin repairs as soon as the weather permits.

14. I take out a permit, does it give me an extension?

Yes. A contractor should be scheduled to begin repairs within 45 days of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

15. What happens if the City does the work?

The City issues sidewalk violations in order to check if the Violation was issued correctly.

16. How much will it cost to fix up my property if the City does the work?

To calculate the estimated cost, multiply the estimated square footage shown on the PIR by the cost per square foot shown on the letter that came with the Notice of Violation. This cost is not the full cost of the permit as well as the cost of sending out an inspector to perform the work. You must use the 7" concrete cost for that area, otherwise use the untarred sidewalk cost for that area. The City does the work?

17. What should I do once I receive a violation?

If a re-inspection has to be performed, the City will notify you.

18. If I take out a permit, does it give me an extension?

Yes. A contractor should be scheduled to begin repairs within 45 days of receipt of the Notice of Violation.

19. If I do not do anything within 45 days of receipt of the violation, what will happen?

If you do not perform the work within the 45 days, the City may perform the work or cause the work to be performed by one of its contractors, and bill you for the cost. There is no fine or penalty associated with a sidewalk violation.