

Halachos of Snow on Shabbos

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- According to all opinions, snow that fell before Shabbos is not muktza
- Most Poskim are of the opinion that even snow that fell on Shabbos is not Muktza
- However, R' Moshe Feinstein was of the opinion that snow that fell on Shabbos IS muktza
- Seems like the minhag in America has been to follow R' Feinstein that snow is muktza
- Children do not have to follow the stringency of R' Feinstein and can play in the snow on Shabbos
- Snowballs are not allowed to be made on Shabbos
- Snowmen are not allowed to be made on Shabbos

Snow Removal

A non Jew can be hired to remove snow on Shabbos

- They should preferably be hired before Shabbos
- If they're hired on Shabbos then payment can not be discussed
- They should not use a snow blower unless it's a danger
- Snow can only be removed from cement walkways. Not from dirt and grass

If there's no non Jew available:

Within an eruv

- If there's a legitimate risk for people slipping etc. then a yid can shovel as regular
- If there's dangerous ice on steps and walkways etc. then even a hoe etc. can be used to break the ice
- If there's less of a risk then the snow can be swept and not shoveled
- Salt/sand can be spread on ice
- If that's not working, hot water can be poured onto the ice

Not within an Eruv

- If it's a serious risk of harm then the snow can be moved less than 5 feet away from where it fell
- This should only be done if it's absolutely necessary to leave the house
- In this situation, Minyan is not considered necessary

Walking in snow

- There's no issue with walking on snow, even if you have letters on the bottom of your shoes/boots
- However, if the snow will melt while you're walking (not probable) and there's a choice between walking in the snow or walking where it's shoveled, it's better to walk where it's shoveled

Miscellaneous

- Wet coats, gloves, scarves etc. can not be hung where you normally dry clothing (bathrooms etc.)
- They can be hung where they're normally hung when they're not wet
- If there are branches falling to the ground then it's best not to rely on the Far Rockaway/Lawrence eruv