



Public Works
Agency

OAKLAND SIDEWALKS FACT SHEET



- ▶ **The City of Oakland has approximately 1,100 miles of sidewalks.** In 2006, the City conducted a comprehensive sidewalk survey to assess sidewalk conditions and locate locations needing repair throughout Oakland. The survey found that approximately 84% of the sidewalks were in satisfactory condition.
- ▶ Data from the survey identified that the City is responsible for approximately 32% of the broken sidewalks (due to tree root damage) and that the majority of sidewalks needing repair are the responsibility of the fronting private property owners, at an estimated cost of \$60 million.
- ▶ **Since 2008, the City has repaired 2,725 locations, 1,824 of which were identified on the sidewalk survey.**
- ▶ **The City of Oakland appropriated funding to repair sidewalks for which the City is responsible:**
 - **FY 2008-09** \$1,640,000 (included American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding)
 - **FY 2009-10** \$870,000
 - **FY 2010-11** \$870,000
 - **FY 2011-12** \$560,000
 - **FY 2012-13** \$560,000
- ▶ **The responsibility to maintain and repair sidewalks in Oakland rests with the fronting private property owner** as per Oakland Municipal Code Section 12.04.020 and California Streets & Highways Code Sections 5600-5602, except where the damage is caused by an “official City tree”; then the City is responsible for repairs. The planting strip, an area between sidewalk and curb, is also considered part of the sidewalk and needs to be maintained in good and safe condition.
- ▶ Where a defective sidewalk is identified without the presence of an “official City tree”, a “Notice to Repair” is sent to the property owner requiring the sidewalk be repaired within 30 days. If the owner fails to do so, the City may repair the sidewalk and bill the property owner. If the owner doesn’t pay for the repairs, a tax lien will be placed on the property. See below for additional information on how property owners may repair sidewalk damage.
- ▶ **Private property owners have the following options to repair damaged sidewalks:**
 - Repair the sidewalk yourself or hire a licensed contractor, with a permit.
 - Enter into a voluntary agreement with the City **when the City has a planned project** (where both private and public damage is being repaired along a corridor) to have the City contractor perform the work. By entering into this agreement, you agree to reimburse the cost of the repair, including the City’s administrative fee.
- ▶ **A City permit is required if the repair area is greater than 25 square feet.** The Permit Counter (Planning & Zoning) is located at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114 Oakland, CA 94612 • (510) 238-3891 • Permits@oaklandnet.com



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**Report a Problem
to Public Works**

**Hotline
(510) 615-5566**

**Website
www.oaklandpw.com**

**Email
pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com**

**SeeClickFix
www.seeclickfix.com/oakland**

OAKLAND SIDEWALKS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is sidewalk defect or damage?

A. There are various levels and types of damage, but any crack or vertical offset of more than ¼ inch is considered a defect, according to the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines. Damaged sidewalks create unsafe conditions for pedestrians.

Q. Why should I repair my sidewalk?

A. If someone trips in front of your house, you could be sued for damages. Sidewalk defects could also create problems for children, seniors, the blind, wheelchairs and others with special needs. All pedestrians benefit from safe sidewalks.

Q. How do I repair my sidewalk?

A. You can do the work yourself or hire a licensed contractor. All work must be done in accordance with sidewalk permit requirements. Defective sidewalks must be removed to the nearest score line. Replacement sidewalks must be made of concrete. Sidewalk repairs exceeding 25 square feet require a permit from the City which may be obtained at the Permit Counter (Planning & Zoning), located at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114 Oakland, CA 94612 • (510) 238-3891 • Permits@oaklandnet.com

Q. How much does the permit cost for sidewalk repair?

A. The permit fee is approximately \$400 (for less than 200 square feet) and approximately \$1.00 additional per square foot if greater than 200 square feet (according to Oakland's Master Fee Schedule). There may be additional fees for driveways, curbs and gutters. These fees cover City inspection costs to ensure proper construction.

Q. May a property owner repair a sidewalk damaged by an official City tree?

A. Property owners may repair the sidewalk at their own expense. The City will assist with inspection and, while a Sidewalk Permit is still required, the City will waive the cost of the permit.

Q. How do I report a sidewalk defect?

A. Call the Public Works Call Center at (510) 615-5566 and report the address and problem. We will send an inspector. If there's a problem, a "Notice to Repair" will be issued to the responsible party.