



Living in Adams County



Roads & Access

Before you decide to buy or build in Adams County, think about how you will access your property.

Does the road to your house cross someone else's land? Be sure to read your deed and get legal advice to confirm you have a legal easement or right-of-way to your property. Don't assume you have legal access just because you can drive to your place.

In order to ensure access for emergency vehicles, Adams County's Road Ordinance requires driveways and private roads to meet certain specifications. For example, the steepness of your driveway cannot exceed 7% grade, and the travelway and turn-around must accommodate a single-unit fire truck with an outside wheel path radius of 42 feet. You can find more information on road and driveway specifications in Adams County Road Ordinance 2008-01 and 2008-06 [on our website](#).

If you are building a new driveway that connects to a county road or state highway, you will need to secure a permit before you begin construction. For county roads, contact Kraig Spelman, Road & Bridge Supervisor: 208-566-1278. If you will access State Highway 55 or US95, contact Ken Couch at the Idaho Transportation Department: D3Development.Services@itd.idaho.gov.



Adams County is a great place to live, but the sun doesn't always shine here. Sometimes, it snows. And snows. Who's going to plow your driveway?

As a rule, the county does not plow private roads or driveways. In fact, not all county roads get plowed in winter. School bus routes and main thoroughfares come first, and then the county road crew plows about 325 miles of priority public roads.

Our county plow drivers do their best not to damage fences when plowing snow. But be aware that your fence should be at least 25 feet from the center line of the county road. If it's closer to the road, there's no guarantee it won't be damaged by plowed snow. The county is not responsible for damage to fences within 25 feet of centerline.

When you do plow your driveway, please do not plow your snow into or across the county road. If you are moving into a subdivision, check the covenants and bylaws of the homeowners' association to see who takes care of road maintenance and how you pay for your share.

Of course, it doesn't snow here all the time. Winter is bookended by spring and fall rains that can turn gravel roads muddy, slippery and potted. And when things dry out, those gravel roads are going to be dusty. If your road is not paved now, don't expect it to be paved anytime soon. You may experience increased vehicle maintenance costs if you regularly drive on unpaved roads. Just consider all these challenges a small tradeoff for not having to sit in city traffic.

Be sure to keep the public right-of-way clear. Do not park vehicles or equipment or place signs or garbage cans within the road right-of-way. The right-of-way includes the travel surface plus the shoulders and ditches; it is 60 feet wide for most local roads.