

1. BUMPY SIDEWALKS AND YOUR LIABILITY

If you walk the neighborhood, you are probably well aware of how bad some sidewalks are. Some are sinking below the curbs, many have depressions where the water meter is located, then there are slabs that are twisting, slabs that are raised by tree roots and many places to trip if you do not pay attention. There are many reasons. Mostly, bad design, bad original workmanship and soil movement.

Are you aware that:

1. You are responsible for the maintenance and replacement of the sidewalk even though it is not on your property. Weird, unfair....yes. But true.
2. The city is immune to liability, as it is your responsibility.
3. You can be sued if a passer-by trips on your defective sidewalk. A defect could be as small as a half inch lip, even less if you keep reading..
4. Technically, the standard is set by the Americans with Disabilities Act that states a defect is anything greater than a 1/4 inch vertical lip or a cross slope more than about 1" for a 4 ft walk, to include the top of the curb.
5. Any walker can anonymously report your defective sidewalk to 311. It does not require that you fell. You will get a citation to force a fix within 30 days.
6. You cannot hire just any contractor to fix the sidewalk. It requires a City authorized contractor and a permit. So be cautious about unsolicited door hanger offers.
7. A cheaper solution that freezes the time to fix it, but slower, is the City 50/50 cost share program (your share is about \$4/square foot replaced). Link:

<https://dallascityhall.com/departments/public-works/Pages/SidewalkReplacementProgram.aspx>

8. As the 50/50 program has a 12 month lead time, to allow clustering of work by neighborhood for efficiency, UPON REQUEST, the City will install a temporary asphalt patch/ramp at no cost to you, to avoid another tripper claim.

ADD YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS MAP OF AREAS OR LOCATIONS WHERE YOU WANT THE CITY TO BE AWARE OF DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS

website is www.dallassidewalk.com

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