

Before Leaving Home

- **Check conditions honestly.** If sidewalks or roads are icy and unsafe, **do not go**—davening at home is absolutely appropriate.
- **Leave extra time.** Rushing is one of the biggest causes of slips.
- **Tell someone your plan** if you're elderly or walking alone.

What to Wear

- **Footwear with real traction** (snow boots or shoes with rubber soles; avoid smooth leather).
- **Warm socks** to prevent numbness, which reduces balance.
- **Layers + a warm coat**—being cold makes people tense and less steady.
- **Gloves (not pockets!)** so your hands are free to balance or break a fall.
- **A hat or hood**—head warmth matters more than people realize.

How to Walk

- **Short, flat steps**—shuffle slightly rather than taking long strides.
- **Assume every dark patch is ice.**
- **Walk on snow, not shiny ice** when possible—packed snow often has more grip.
- **Use railings, fences, or walls** for support.
- **Avoid shortcuts** across untreated grass, driveways, or parking lots.

Extra Care for Seniors & Children

- **Strongly encourage staying home** if there's any risk.
- If going out:
 - **Walk with a companion**
 - Consider a **cane with an ice tip**
- Parents: **hold children's hands firmly** and walk slower than usual.

Community Responsibility

- If possible before Shabbos:
 - **Salt and shovel** common walking paths.
 - **Check on neighbors**, especially elderly or those living alone.
- Make it clear from the pulpit or WhatsApp groups:
"If conditions are unsafe, please daven at home—this is the correct halachic choice."

Bottom Line

There is **no mitzvah** to risk injury for tefillah b'tzibbur.

Hashem wants us safe, healthy, and whole.