

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.
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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.
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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.
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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.
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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.”
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Bottom Line

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

Hashem wants us safe, healthy, and whole.