

Town of Chelmsford
Department of Public Works
Highway Division
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A Message from the Superintendent

Winter storms test the patience of residents, commuters, pedestrians and snow plow equipment operators. The Highway Division is committed to keeping your streets plowed, traffic flowing and keeping the Town's roadways and sidewalks safe as efficiently as possible. This brochure is intended to help residents understand the Town of Chelmsford's Snow Plowing & Removal Procedures and to encourage your cooperation so that we continue to operate safely and efficiently while performing snow removal efforts.

Joe Eriksen, Highway Superintendent

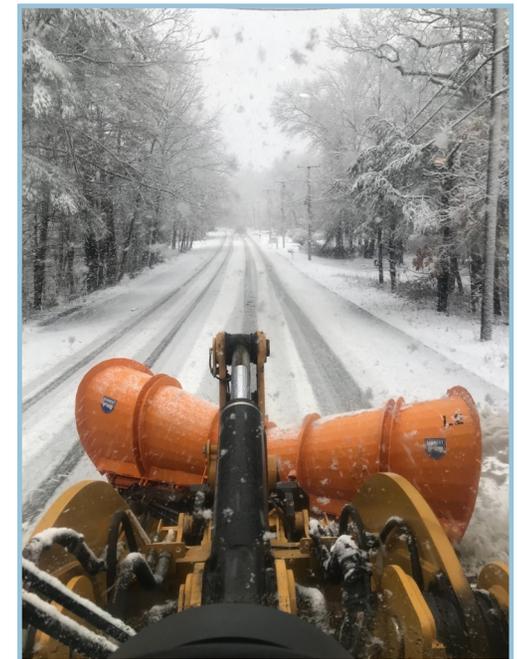
This brochure contains general information about our snow removal operations, Town by-laws pertaining to snow removal, Town Right of Way, and winter parking ban information. It is intended to increase your awareness of how we as a community can provide safer streets and sidewalks during snow storm and ice emergencies.

*Please have patience throughout and after storms.
We have fewer snowplow contractors this year.
However, please be assured that your road will be
treated or cleared as quickly as possible.*



Town of Chelmsford
DPW
Highway Division

Snowplowing & Snow Removal



If you have questions or concerns,
please call 978-856-6707
or email
snowconcerns@chelmsfordma.gov



The DPW/Highway Division maintains over 220 miles of roads and 27 miles of sidewalks throughout town during the winter months.

Our primary goal during a storm is to maintain roads so that emergency crews (police, fire, and ambulance) have access to each property. The secondary goal is to treat the icy surface and/or push the snow aside for safe passage of the general public's use of the roadways. Several variables affect how we deal with a storm which include: Air and road temperature (before, during and after the storm), time of day, day of week, forecast, and duration of the storm.

Important Reminders to Residents

Town By-Laws:

Section 142-34: No person shall pile, push, throw, shovel or by any other method or means cause snow to be deposited or placed on any public roadway or sidewalk or fire hydrant or other similar device in the town so as to impede, obstruct or interrupt or otherwise adversely affect the unrestricted flow of traffic, or conceal any fire hydrant or other similar device, or the safe travel of any pedestrian on such roadway or sidewalk.

Section 142-35: Violations of this article shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$25 for each violation. Each instance or new day shall constitute a separate violation.

Parking Bans:

Please observe these. They are posted on the Town website, social media sources and local Cable TV. Police enforce these bans and vehicles will be towed and/or fined. **By-Law Section 203-27**

Winter Sand:

Sand for residential use is available in the parking lot at the High School athletic field located at the intersection of Graniteville Road & Old Westford Road. Bring a bucket and shovel.

Fire Hydrants/Catch Basins:

All residents that are able, are asked to keep Fire Hydrants and Catch Basins clear. The Water Departments are responsible for keeping Fire Hydrants clear, while the DPW monitors and clears Catch Basins.

Safety:

Use caution while clearing snow from driveways. Do not shovel snow into the street or get in the way of the plow operator. Do not allow children to play or build snow forts at the edge of the road.

Snow Removal

Pretreatment Operations: DPW applies a brine solution to prevent snow/ice from bonding to road surfaces. Brine is applied to main roads up to 24 hours prior to storms as long as the roads are dry and rain is not forecasted. DPW, time permitting, applies brine to secondary roads. The application of brine is comprised of water and salt, using approximately a quarter of the amount of rock salt used in standard application.

Salting Operations: We rely on a weather forecasting service and the local Police Department to advise us of icy road conditions and determine when to apply salt to the road with Town owned vehicles. We give priority to main arterial roads, collector roads and hilly areas but also respond to isolated problem areas.

Plowing Operations: Plows are dispatched at the Superintendent's discretion after an accumulation of snow. The Town is divided into 30 plowing routes and these routes are serviced by town-owned and contracted vehicles. Plows make initial passes in both directions starting at the center-line of the roadway to open up the center of the street for adequate passage of vehicles. Shorter streets, dead ends, and remotely located streets are addressed last. After all streets in the route are "opened up", the plows return to push the snow back beyond the gutter line to open for normal traffic operations, clear the drains for rain and snowmelt, and make room for additional accumulation of snow.

We make every effort to minimize the snow plowed into driveways, this is mostly unavoidable. Plow operators cannot lift the plow blades as they pass driveways. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear their own driveway.

Sidewalk Plowing: School walking routes are our first priority. Our second priority is to clear Central and Vinal Square and our third priority is to clear the remaining sidewalks on main roadways.

We make every effort to have all sidewalks cleared within 4 days after a storm. Sidewalk clearing gets interrupted at times by another storm and we have to start our schedule over before all areas are complete. (Sidewalks located on Princeton Street & Chelmsford Street, Rte. 110 from Dunkin Donuts to Lowell line are state owned and we address these after all town owned sidewalks have been cleared.)

Please Note: During these operations, our equipment may need mechanical work and our mechanics make every effort to make repairs quickly so that operations continue as efficiently as possible.

Helpful Information



Please be aware that each resident's front yard does not, in some instances, extend to the edge of the roadway pavement. The Town - owned layout varies in width for each resident's property. The Town will not be responsible for damage to any property or personal item which has been placed or left within the roadway or Town-owned layout such as sprinkler heads, bushes/shrubs/plants, basketball hoops, bicycles, toys, fences or walls.



Mailboxes installed in the Town-owned layout are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow clearing efforts. Snow thrown when clearing roadways will destroy or damage all but the strongest of mailboxes and posts. The Town is not responsible for this damage. Please keep in mind, mailboxes that are physically struck by plows will be evaluated for further action. All mailbox concerns must be received within (5) five business days of storm otherwise no action will be taken.



Our biggest challenge while clearing roads is a car parked in the roadway. In accordance with town bylaws, residents are asked to remove vehicles from the road as early as possible. It is also advisable to remove basketball hoops from all roads to prevent damage from plows.



Please stay off the roads if at all possible and take precautionary measures if your trip is absolutely necessary. The plows can operate more efficiently if the roads are clear of cars.



Residents are requested to please stay back far enough so plows can see you if backing up and never to pass a plow unless they signal you to go around them. Please drive slowly and cautiously in winter weather conditions. Speed is the biggest cause of accidents during snowstorms. Remember that the posted speed limits are for ideal driving conditions and speeds should be reduced and stopping distances increased during winter months.

