



TOWN OF NATICK

Department of Public Works



SNOW AND ICE POLICY 2019 - 2020

The goal of the Natick Department of Public Works is to remove snow and ice from roadways and sidewalks as rapidly and efficiently as possible while keeping the roads open and essential traffic moving safely. Each storm develops with different factors that include temperature, wind, moisture content, snow accumulation per hour and duration. The aim is to return roads to safe winter conditions as soon as possible. With proper use of storm forecasts, personnel, equipment and materials, the desired results should be attained. Flexibility is needed to adapt to the variety of circumstances and conditions during each snow and ice event.

During winter storms, every member of the Department is involved with snow removal efforts. Staff are pulled from their other regular duties (such as rubbish/recycling collection and water/sewer system operation) to respond to the storm. In addition to Town staff and equipment, the Department retains the services of private snow removal contractors. During a snow plowing event, all Department and contractor staff are mobilized simultaneously and work until the storm cleanup is complete or health and safety needs require staff to rest before continuing.

Over 160 miles of roadways, 40 miles of sidewalk, and 18 school and municipal parking lots are included in the snow removal program. The Town's roadways are divided into 42 separate plow routes covered by over 70 pieces of equipment. Additionally, the Department must ensure critical access to the Police and Fire Stations, 34 wastewater pump stations, 12 water supply wells, 4 water treatment plants, and the Town's water storage reservoirs.

Additional information may be found at: <http://www.natickma.gov/1063/Snow-Ice-Policy>

WHEN THE STORM STARTS

An important step in dealing with snowfall is anti-icing treatment (street salting). Top priority is given to the Town's main roads. Those roads are routes that have the heaviest year round traffic and provide the greatest town wide mobility. They usually are major arterials that run North-South or East-West. Anti-icing operations commence when frozen precipitation begins falling.

WHEN THE STORM CONTINUES

When approximately two inches of snow has accumulated and more is expected, the Department transitions from anti-icing into snow plowing operations. Our first priority is to open the main arterial roadways. These roadways are the key to maintaining a steady flow of traffic and access for emergency vehicles. The plowing then continues to the remaining streets on the plow routes to "open up" each one in sequence. If the storm continues in intensity, the snow removal equipment remains in this pattern until the storm abates. As the storm abates, equipment begins to "widen out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to the curb line. Concurrently, equipment begins clearing roadway intersections to improve sight lines and visibility. School and municipal parking lots are cleared and treated after snow removal on Town roadways has been substantially completed.

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds redeposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually an application of sand and salt is applied to all intersections, hills, and curves to help improve traction.

After a substantial snowfall, accumulated snow is removed and hauled from business districts and municipal lots. Crews are assigned to clear stormwater drainage catch basins so that snow melt may drain. The Department makes every effort to schedule snow removal during off hours. However, snow removal procedures may cause slight traffic delays.

SIDEWALK PLOWING

The Town plows over 40 of our 130 miles of sidewalks in the same manner as the roads. Sidewalks along main roads, business districts, and schools are plowed as soon as it is possible to do so. Limited resources often delay sidewalk plowing until well into the storm event. In general, major walking routes will be cleared within 24 hours, and every effort is made to have all sidewalk plow routes cleared within 48 hours after the storm ends. Residents and businesses are encouraged to clear snow from sidewalks along their properties. Town Bylaws prohibit depositing snow onto sidewalks and crosswalks that have been (or will be) cleared in a way that affects pedestrian safety.



SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

If you need snow shoveling assistance or can help those in need please consider using the Snow Shoveling Assistant linkup found below. This widget helps connect helpful volunteers to those needing assistance. Volunteers can help clear driveways, walkways, sidewalks, and the like.

<http://www.natickma.gov/1421/Snow-Shoveling-Assistance-Volunteers>



ANTI-ICING MATERIALS

The Town has the capacity to store 3,000 tons of road salt under cover and 600 yards of sand. The salt stockpile is adequate for several storms and is replenished as needed. The sand stockpile is adequate for the entire winter season. We also store 3,000 gallons of liquid anti-icing material. This material is used in conjunction with road salt for more effective and efficient anti-icing treatment. Natick residents may take small buckets of salt and sand from the Oak Street storage facility for their personal use.



*** HELPFUL INFORMATION ***

TIPS & INFORMATION



- Whenever possible, it is best to pile snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street) to reduce the potential of having it redeposited at the driveway opening when the plow passes.
- DO NOT throw snow in the road; it will only be redeposited when the plow comes around again.
- DO NOT clean snow off of your car in the road.
- Please DO NOT plow or deposit snow onto the sidewalks in front of your property. It makes sidewalk plowing more difficult and time consuming, and may violate Town Bylaws.
- In order to avoid doing twice the work, consider shoveling the driveway after the storm has passed and the street has been cleared. The plows may revisit your roadway several different times throughout the storm.
- Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home allowing rain or melting snow to enter the drainage system.
- In the interest of public safety, do not pile or plow snow to obstruct a fire hydrant. Consider “adopting” a hydrant by shoveling and clearing the hydrant in your neighborhood.

CURBSIDE TRASH COLLECTION

During the winter months when there are snow banks along the roads, trash pick-up becomes more difficult. Please do not place trash bags, barrels or recycling bins on top of high snow banks. They should be placed on the street at the foot of snow banks or at the end of driveways. If street plowing operations are underway, try to avoid placing trash bags, barrels and bins in the path of plows. Under extreme weather conditions, trash and recycling pick-up may be suspended for a period of time. Check the town’s website or call the Department for up-to-date information.

Sign up for the free ‘Recycle Coach’ smart phone app to receive alerts and information (including service delays) regarding your trash and recycling collection at: natickma.gov/902/Trash-Recycling-Collection  [Recycle Coach Municipal Media.](#)

WHERE CAN I PUT THE SNOW?

Residents and businesses are reminded not to shovel, blow, plow or throw snow onto the streets or pile it blocking sidewalks. Snow in these locations will create a hazard. Please remind your contractors as well. *(General Town Bylaw Article 50 Section 18) Any person leaving a vehicle so as to obstruct snow removal operations shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00. No person shall deposit snow or ice into or upon any public way so as to impede Town snow removal operations, or to obstruct travel, or against or upon any fire hydrant, without the authority of the Town Administrator or designee. (Amended Fall 2018)*

OBJECTS IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Personal property such as mailboxes or portable basketball hoops that are placed in the public right-of-way are placed there at the private owner’s risk. The Town of Natick does not assume responsibility or liability for damage to such items as a result of snow plowing operations.

PLOW DAMAGE

Plow damage occurrences and damage claims must be reported to the Department of Public Works no later than May 1st.

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN

On-street parking bans for emergency purposes are announced on radio/television stations. Please remove your car from the street as soon as you are aware of a snow alert. There is no overnight parking in Natick from October 1th to April 30th of each year. Additionally, no overnight parking is allowed at any municipal parking lot. Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roadways are subject to ticketing by the Police Department and towing at the owner’s expense. Emergency overnight parking is provided at the municipal lot on Pond Street only.

(General Town Bylaw Article 70 Section 5) The Director of Public Works or other officer having charge of ways, for the purpose of removing or plowing snow, or removing ice from any way may cause to be removed to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with such work.

QUESTIONS?

Department of Public Works 75 West St. Natick, MA 01760	Main Number: 508-647-6550 Highway: 508-647-6562	Website: natickma.gov Under Government, click Public Works
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Town of Natick
Department of Public Works
75 West Street
Natick, MA 01760



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SNOW AND ICE POLICY
Natick, MA 01760

DOWNLOAD THE ‘Recycle Coach’ APP
To receive curbside collection reminders and information about the Trash & Recycling Programs use the website plugin or download the smart phone app at: natickma.gov/902/Trash-Recycling-Collection

