



TOWN OF MILTON, VERMONT 05468

Department of Public Works:
Admin, Buildings and Grounds, Highway Operations, Water and Wastewater

Winter Operations FAQ's

Dear Residents of Milton,

Well, it's that time of year again. Winter is coming and with it we would like to remind our Residents of our Town's winter operations policies and answer a few frequently asked questions.

Starting December 1st the overnight winter parking ban will be in effect for all Town streets between the hours of 12:00-8:00 am. This ban is strictly enforced. Vehicles violating the ban may be ticketed or towed if interfering with snow removal operations.

It is important to note that the Town does not have a bare roads policy, much like the rest of the State. We follow the practice of "Safe Roads at Safe Speeds". Salt used for road de-icing is less effective at temperatures below 18°F and when it's dark out. This winter we'll be testing the addition of magnesium chloride to our salt to increase its effectiveness in colder temperatures. During extended cold snaps, it is not uncommon to see snow packed roads for several days.

Many of you may be aware that our price for salt increased 25% for the upcoming winter. We've also been forewarned that the entire Northeast region may experience salt shortages in excess of 300,000 tons this winter. This means that we will need to be extra judicious with our salt applications this winter. As previously mentioned, we will be mixing liquid magnesium chloride with our salt this winter to stretch our salt supply and improve the salt's effectiveness. If salt supplies start running low we may need to mix it with or switch completely to sand.

Castles, forts, tunnels and other similar structures cannot be allowed in roadside snow banks. Basketball hoops, landscape fencing and features, and other obstructions need to be moved out of the right of way. These items pose a significant hazard to the safety of our residents as well as our Plow Drivers.

When will my street get plowed? The first priority is our major arterial roads such as Westford Road, East Road, Main Street and Lake Road. Second in priority are collector streets such as Barnum Street, Herrick Avenue and Hobbs Road. Following the priorities are developments, dead end and dirt roads and finally cul-de-sacs.

When will the sidewalks be cleared? They are usually cleared after the street has been plowed to avoid repeat trips. The Town does not plow all sidewalks, only those that are contiguous to the town core will be plowed.

Our mailbox was damaged by a snowplow; will the Town repair or replace it? Occasionally mailboxes are damaged by snow plowing operations due to poor visibility, the mailbox being buried in a snow bank or the weight/volume of the snow being plowed. The damage is not deliberate and in most cases unavoidable. While mailboxes have a blanket authorization to be located within the right of way, the responsibility to maintain, repair or replace mailboxes lies with the property owner. If a mailbox that is properly installed and is in good repair is physically struck by the Town's plow truck, we will provide a generic USPS Post Office approved box at no cost to the property owner.

These are only a few things that can help all of us enjoy a safe winter season. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to give us a call at 893-6030, or drop an email to rhunt@town.milton.vt.us.

Sincerely,

Roger F. Hunt, Public Works Director