

Snow & Ice Policy

Snowplowing

The snow season is just around the corner and the Rochester Highway Department will dispatch Town-owned equipment to clear snow and ice from the roadways, municipal buildings, and parking areas. Clearing of the snow and response time involves a number of factors including the timing of the storm, the type of snow, if it is fluffy, dry snow or extremely wet, the amount of vehicular traffic on the roadways at the time of the storm, which will affect how the snow gets packed along the roadways, and the time of the year the storm occurs. Also affecting the snow is the duration of the snowstorm. Such things as the rate and accumulation of snowfall, temperature, time of day or night, wind direction and velocity, and duration are all factors that interact to create a unique character for each storm with the result that no two storms are the same.

The Highway Department, with the much needed and appreciated cooperation of the Police Department, will respond to slippery roadway conditions as soon as possible.

Please be advised that it is illegal to deposit snow on the sidewalk and roadways.

Residents are requested to avoid parking on the roadway during all snowplowing operations.

Assistance to Private Property

The employee may, if a hazard exists, notify the Rochester Police Department of the hazardous condition. Except in cases of emergency or where town business dictates, Town employee shall not use a Town vehicle to perform any snow removal or ice control operation on private property.

During the Storm

Depending on the forecast and conditions, chemical treatment may continue throughout the storm. Town plows will begin to plow major roads after approximately 2"-3" of snow accumulation. Roads are plowed in the following priority: major roads first, then secondary roads, and finally minor roads and dead-ends. During a storm our goal is to keep roads passable for emergency vehicles.

After the Storm

Plows will continue to clean and widen roadways until every road in Town has been completed. Please be aware that it takes several hours to complete plow operations after the snow has stopped. You may see plow trucks driving with their plows raised or sanding trucks not spreading sand. These trucks may be returning for fuel or sand or may be en route to their assigned areas.

Clearing Your Driveway

The Highway Department tries to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed into driveways. Also, as long as there is snow in the street, the plow driver will continue to plow the street, some of this additional snow will end up at the driveway opening. Please know that it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear their driveway opening. To avoid double work while clearing your driveway, try to shovel snow from your driveway after the plow has been by, and shovel the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the road instead of to the left.

Property Damage

During the course of operations throughout any given winter, the snow removal forces may incur a certain amount of damage to Town and private property. If a Town plow or truck damages a mailbox through direct contact, the mailbox will be repaired or replaced in accordance with established guidelines with a standard type mailbox. The Town cannot replace decorative mailboxes. A standard design will be used for all mailbox replacements. A property owner who installs decorative mailboxes does so at his/her own risk. If a Town truck damages any lawn area, they will repair the area in the spring with loam and seed.

Every attempt will be made to provide passable roads under the severe budget constraints. All townspeople will need to recognize that they will need to be patient in that plowing, cleaning, sanding, and salting will be done on a labor and budget availability. This will result in delays in one or more of these functions. We urge patience, caution, and concern for safety.

Updated 10/11/16

Adopted By Selectmen: 11/14/16



Mailbox Installation

How to Set Up & Mount a Mailbox

Follow U.S. Postal Service® guidelines for installing and placing a new mailbox at your home. Get tips on the best materials to use to set up a curbside mailbox and how to keep it in good condition. Make sure that your mail carrier always has a clear path to your mailbox whether it's by the street or mounted on your house.

Curbside Mailboxes

Mailbox Size & Construction Standards

A mailbox with the Postmaster General's (PMG) seal of approval meets USPS size and construction standards. If you build your own mailbox or buy a custom-made one, it must meet the PMG standards. Show your local postmaster your mailbox plans or your custom-made box for approval.

To get drawings and measurements for building your own mailbox, write to [US Postal Service Engineering](#).

Want to buy a mailbox big enough for packages? See [Next Generation Mailboxes](#).

Where to Place the Mailbox

Here are some helpful guidelines to follow when placing your mailbox:

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb. If you do not have a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.
- Put your house or apartment number on the mailbox.
- If your mailbox is on a different street from your house or apartment, put your full street address on the box.

Installing the Mailbox Post

The best mailbox supports are stable but bend or fall away if a car hits them. The Federal Highway Administration recommends:

- A 4" x 4" wooden support or a 2"-diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe.
- Avoid unyielding and potentially dangerous supports, like heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, and farm equipment (e.g., milk cans filled with concrete).
- Bury your post no more than 24" deep.

