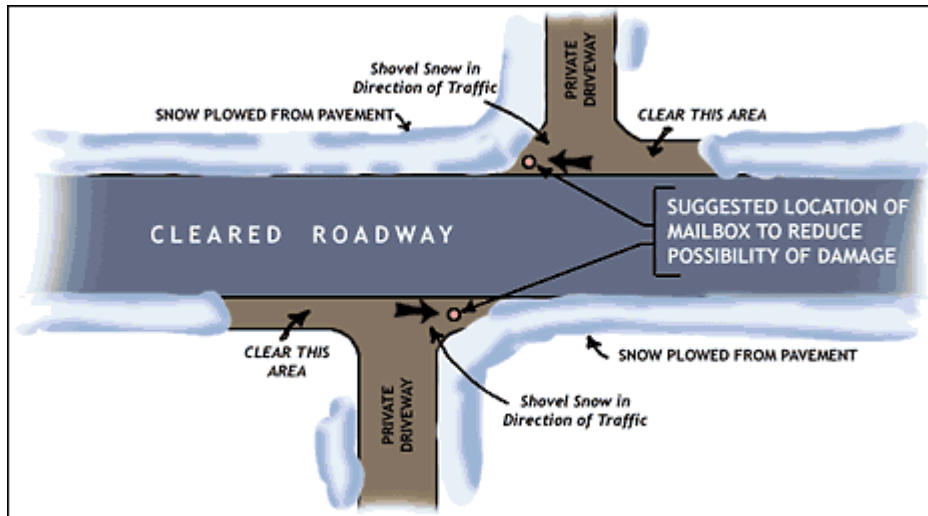


Why do Borough plow trucks push snow into my driveway/sidewalk after I clean it?

Throughout the winter months, Borough crews will be out clearing the roads during and after snowfalls. At the same time residents are clearing their driveways or sidewalks. Many times while this is going on, a plow truck will go by and fill in the end of a freshly cleared driveway with snow from the road or push snow onto the sidewalk, causing frustration and more clearing for residents. Please understand that the Borough's first priority is the safety of the traveling public and clearing the roads of snow and ice and pushing it off of the road and shoulders, and sometimes into shoveled pathways, is a necessary wintertime evil. Plow trucks usually makes one pass to open the road up so residents may get in and out. Then the truck comes back to widen the road and then the shoulders for future snow accumulation. Residents sometimes call and ask why we cannot pick up the blade when going by their driveway. This is not a practical solution and our drivers would never finish clearing the roads due to the multitude of driveways. Finally, the following is a diagram which shows how residents can remove snow in a manner that will lessen amount of snow that is pushed back into the driveway from a subsequent pass by a plow:



My street still has snow on it even after being plowed, why?

Plows push snow, they do not dig or "shovel" snow from streets. Depending on the amount of snow that falls, plows may not plow down to bare asphalt. However, the residual snow that is left is treated with salt which initially provides grit which aids in traction for vehicles traveling and eventually melts the thin layer of snow and ice left on the roadway.

It is snowing and I have not seen a

plow yet-why not? I saw a plow truck that I felt was going too fast, what can I do?

The Public Works Department is responsible for clearing snow and ice from the 21 miles of Borough roadways, which excludes Routes 57 (Washington Avenue) and 31 which are maintained by the State of New Jersey. Using 8 trucks and a crew of 8 employees it can take up to 12 hours depending on the volume of snow and other factors to complete one route through the Borough. This route may need to be repeated any number of times based on the storm. Time is also needed to reload trucks and to switch crews so while you may not see a crew on your street, know that crews are out working. With regard to where trucks are at any given time and the speed of trucks operating in the Borough, all trucks are equipped with GPS. If you feel that a truck is not being operated in a safe manner, please contact the Borough Manager at (908) 689-3600 x120 or manager@washingtonboro-nj.org and be prepared to give a description of the truck as well as a specific date, time, and location when/where the incident occurred.

Why do I have to remove my car from the street when it snows? I don't have a driveway, where should I park?

Borough Ordinance § 85-40 states that when roads become snow covered, all vehicles must be removed from the street. This facilitates complete clearing of the street curb to curb in order to provide adequate travel width for the public as well as emergency vehicles. Residents who do not have access to off-street parking may park in any public lot, on their front lawn (or rear if accessible from an alley), or in a neighbor's driveway with permission.

Why do I have to clear the sidewalk in front of my property? How long do I have to clear my sidewalk?

Snow and ice removal from sidewalks is critical to the safety of the walking public, especially schoolchildren, as the Borough is a walking school district. Additionally, it is in the property owners' best interest to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk in a timely manner, as property owners are fully liable for any slips and falls that may occur on their sidewalks. Borough Ordinances § 75-19 and § 75-14 govern the responsibilities of property owners with regard to liability for, and maintenance of sidewalks. Property owners have **12 HOURS** after the storm has subsided and/or there has been 12 hours of daylight subsequent to the end of the storm to clear sidewalks. As an example, if a storm ends in the middle of the night and the sun rises at 7:00 a.m. the following day, the property owner would have until 7:00 p.m. that evening to clear the sidewalk of any snow and ice.

Why is there a difference in plowing from storm to storm?

One of the biggest factors that determine the Borough's performance is the type of storm and range of temperatures. Additionally, plowing 6-8 inches of snow is vastly different than a blizzard of 18-24 inches as the volume of snow changes, but the space to move it to does not change. During the winter each storm poses unique problems to snowplow operators. Storms with low temperatures can be difficult because de-icing agents become less effective at the lower temperatures. Storms with high winds also are a challenge because the snow quickly blows back onto the roadway after the plows pass. Ice, sleet, and freezing rain that falls on top of snow also presents problems as plows cannot push it off of the roadway, so plow operators are forced to rely on salt and grit to clear roads and provide traction.