



Winter Weather Info

The West Donegal Township Road Department is fully staffed, and our subcontractors are in place, ready for ice or snow storms that may occur this winter.

Please be aware of the following rules and guidelines that apply during winter weather events.

- * Please remove vehicles from streets and cul-de-sacs wherever possible, during a snow or ice event. Please also remove trailers, campers, boats, basketball hoops and other obstructions from Township roads/streets. This allows our plow drivers to quickly and safely plow from road edge to road edge.
- * It is unlawful to deposit snow or ice from your property onto Township roads/streets, whether the roads/streets have been plowed or not. This includes the snow left at the end of your driveway by the snow plow. Snow deposited in the street from driveways and sidewalks hinder snow plowing operations and creates a safety risk for other motorists.
- * Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks shall occur within 24 hours, following the end of the storm. A path shall be cleared at least 30 inches in width. In the event that the snow and/or ice on a sidewalk becomes so hard that it cannot be removed without damage to the sidewalk, sand or other abrasive material shall be placed to make travel reasonably safe as soon as weather permits. Violations may be fined from \$50 to \$1,000 a day, plus the cost of prosecution.
- * Should the Township or the State close a road based on weather conditions, all motorists must comply with all signage. If you encounter a road closed sign in your travels, **DO NOT** remove the sign or go around it. Please find another route. Ignoring a road closure puts your safety and the safety of our crews and first responders at risk as well as opening you to a possible traffic citation.
- * If your mailbox is damaged by impact from Township equipment, please call the Township office for a review by management. Please note that the Township is not responsible for mailbox damage caused by snow being discharged from a plow.

Township owned roadways are plowed in the following order of priority:

1. Main Roadways (Snow Emergency Routes as defined by township ordinance)
2. Secondary Roadways
3. Developments
4. Cul-de-sacs

PennDOT is responsible for plowing the State maintained roads within the Township. If you have any issues regarding winter weather conditions or operations on these roads, contact PennDOT at (717) 299-7621 to report problems or concerns. The following State roads are maintained by PennDOT:

- Anchor Road
- Bainbridge Road (Route 241)
- Maytown Road (Route 743)
- Harrisburg Avenue
- Turnpike Road
- Market Street (North & South) (Route 230)

Most of our plow equipment can clear 9 feet +/- of roadway with each pass. If your street is wider than 20 feet, it can take up to 4 passes (2 in each direction) for the plow to achieve our goal of clearing snow from road edge to road edge. Just because you have seen the plow make 1 pass up and down your street does not mean they have finished the job. In some of our larger developments plowing will most often occur in 2 phases (1st cut and 2nd cut) with a period of time between the phases. This time between phases results from optimized routing patterns within the development to avoid back-tracking and in-efficient plow movements. All streets are plowed in the direction of travel, starting from the centerline and proceeding to the right-hand road edge with the plow always discharging snow to the right.

A common complaint from residents is that we plow driveways closed that they just finished clearing. Clearing the end of your driveway before the street is completely plowed will cause more street snow to end up in your driveway than if you wait until the street has been completely plowed. As previously mentioned, the snow discharges from the right-hand side of the plow. The snow bank along the side of the road tends to hold more snow on the plow (slowing the discharge) as it moves down the street. Any gap in the snow bank will allow a larger quantity of snow to quickly discharge from the plow into the open space (the cleared end of a driveway for example). Your best, most labor efficient approach is to wait until the street is completely plowed before clearing the last 4-6 feet of your driveway. Unless you have an urgent need to leave your property, please consider waiting until your street has been completely plowed before clearing the end of your driveway. The timing will rarely be convenient. However, this is the best way to deal with an unavoidable situation.

If you have any issues/questions regarding snow removal on Township roads, please call the Township office at (717) 367-7178. Our office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. We appreciate your continued cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe during our winter weather operations.