

Town of Clinton
Department of Public Works
Snow Operations Policy

Town of Clinton Snow Operations Policy

The Department of Public works is responsible for the care of over 78 miles of roadway, Over 5 miles of sidewalks, numerous Town facilities and parking lots during and after snow storms. Many factors determine the Departments response to each storm. Every storm is different and requires a different approach. The Town is divided into six plow routes with each route generally serviced by two trucks.

The following roads/routes are the responsibility of the CT-DOT crew. We are not permitted to plow or treat these roads. Route 1, Route 145 and Route 81 (from Killingworth Town line to Route 1 in Clinton).

Parking Ban

When significant snowfall four or more inches is predicted, the Department of Public Works will declare a Town wide parking ban. This requires the removal of all vehicles from Town roads. Vehicles remaining on Town roads are subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

Parking Cars at the Head of Your Driveway

Residents are discouraged from parking their cars at the end of their driveways adjacent to Town roads. The Town will not accept responsibility for any damaged incurred to vehicles parked at the end of a driveway, in the Town Right of Way.

Streets

The Town is responsible to remove/clear snow from Town streets and make them passable for public use. This task is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works (DPW). There are several steps to this process.

1. Roads will be kept as clear as possible during the storm. This does not mean that they will be free of accumulated snow and at times may only be one lane.
2. When the snow stops, the roads will be widened and cleared of accumulated loose snow. This does not mean that the roads will be free of packed snow and/or ice.
3. In order to clear the roads several passes may be needed by town equipment. These passes may occur at intervals of 3 hours. Residents SHOULD NOT clear their aprons until this process is complete or aprons will fill with heavy wet snow. The Department of Public Works will continue to plow the streets until they are deemed clear by the Director of Public Works or his designee.
4. The more snow received the longer this process will take.

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Priority of Service:

During storm events the primary focus for snow removal will be to provide a safe travel way for cars and emergency vehicles on heavily traveled roadways. While snow is actively falling, plowing is generally limited to the center portion of the roadway to clear a path wide enough for one travel lane in each direction. As a winter storm subsides and the plow crews gain a level of control over the storm, more effort can be directed to local roadways and cul-de-sacs. Please note that depending on the severity of the storm, it can take up to four hours to make passes on all streets in town. Snow operations often continue for four to six hours after precipitation has stopped falling and each street has been cleared to the edge of pavement.

Sidewalks

The Town makes every effort to clear specific sidewalks within 24 hours after snow storms. The Town does not clear all sidewalks and relies on homeowners and business owners to assist by clearing sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. There is no Town Ordinance that requires homeowners and businesses to clear the sidewalks adjacent to their properties.

Treatment of Roads

Application of sand, salt or a combination of both products is used to help clear roads and mitigate slippery conditions. Materials are generally applied at the beginning of the storm to help prevent snow and ice from sticking to the road surface. This makes it easier to keep roads clear during the storm. After the snow has stopped and the roads have been cleared additional materials are applied to help with continued melting and mitigate icy/slippery conditions.

Snow Covered Roads

Despite our best efforts roads may continue to be covered with packed snow and ice. Generally speaking if temperatures remain in the lower teens the roads may remain packed with snow and ice regardless of the amount of salt and sand applied until temperatures warm up. Lower volume roads take longer to thaw out and may remain covered while main roads are substantially clear. You will find varying conditions throughout the Town with some roads being relatively clear of snow and ice while others remain covered. Always drive for conditions and never assume roads are completely clear following snow storms.

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Line of Site at Intersections

When significant snow falls, there may be line of site issues at intersections due to the snow being plowed and pushed up during the clearing process. This may make it very difficult to see oncoming traffic when pulling out on roads at intersections. We make every effort to clear intersections and assure visibility however, this may take several days. Please notify the Department if you have any line of site issues and we will make every attempt to address them as soon as practical.

Spot Sanding

When icy conditions are present, the town may initiate “spot sanding” operations where trucks are dispatched to apply salt or sand/salt mix to hilly areas and known icy spots throughout the town. Due to the hilly terrain and changes in elevation in Clinton, some areas may experience slippery conditions while other areas may not have any precipitation or simply rain. In dispatching trucks for spot sanding, the Department will rely on reports from the plow drivers and police officers, air and roadway temperatures, as well past experience to determine the appropriate locations to apply salt or sand.

Treatment Versus Environment

The addition of sand and salt to any roadway is not environmentally friendly. Each product in and of itself has an environmental impact therefore; we make every attempt to use it only as needed. We currently use a mixed product but are looking at switching to an all salt product at some point.

Schools

The Board of Education maintains its own facilities during snow events; The Department of Public Works will provide assistance when available at the request of the Director of School Facilities. We maintain a working communication relationship with school administration on road conditions during and after snow/ice events to assist the Administration in their decision process on delays and cancelations.

Fire Hydrants

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department makes every effort to clear snow around fire hydrants. However this a very time consuming process that may take several weeks to accomplish. Every resident or business that has a fire hydrant on or their property is requested to clear snow from the area around the hydrant for your safety and the safety of you neighbors

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Plow Damage

The Town is not responsible for damaged lawns, sprinkler heads, fences, steps, trees, shrubs, lawn ornaments or portable athletic equipment in the Town Right of Way. The Town Right of Way is reserved for snow storage and utility placement.

Driveways

When you or a service you have hired clears your driveway, do not push snow across the street and block a neighbor's driveway or mailbox. If snow is pushed across the street it must be moved off the road and beyond the edge of the road or curb. Windrows and piles of snow are not to be left in the road under any circumstance. It is recommended that home owners delay clearing the end of their driveway until a minimum of four hours after the end of the snow fall or until the plows have completed clearing their street.

Trash Containers

Trash containers should be placed at the end of your driveway at a location accessible to the trash hauler at least two feet from the roadway. Trash containers should not be placed on snow banks or in the roadway. The Town accepts no responsibility for trash containers left adjacent to or in the roadway. During snow storm events, residents are encouraged to hold off a week from their regularly scheduled weekly trash pick-up day.

Mail Delivery

Every attempt is made to plow snow in a manner that allows for the delivery of mail. When heavy snow or a series of storms impact the area mailboxes may need to be cleared by the home owner. The Town of Clinton is not obligated to keep your mailbox accessible for delivery.

Mailboxes

Your mailbox is installed in the Town of Clinton road Right of Way. The right of way serves multiple purposes one of which is the storage of snow during snow removal operations. The Town is obligated to remove snow from Town roads by pushing/plowing snow off of the road surface into the Town Right of Way. For the Policy on Mailbox Damage please see the Town website at www.clintonct.org , Department of Public Works Mailbox Policy.

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Sand Salt Mix Available for residents

Sand with salt mixed in is available for residential use on driveways and sidewalks. Residents may pick up sand at the Town Transfer facility on Fridays and Saturdays from 7:15 am to 3:00 pm. Residents are restricted to two 5 gallon pails or equivalent when picking up sand/salt.

Town Facilities Service by the Department of Public Works

- Roads: 78+ miles
- Sidewalks: five miles of sidewalks
- Municipal Parking Lot: East Main Street behind the Town Center
- Clinton Fire Department Main Street Station and Glenwood Road Station.
- Clinton Department of Police Services
- Peter's Complex Area
- Henry Carter Hull Library
- Clinton Town Annex
- Clinton Police Department Main Street
- Clinton Police Department Route 81
- Indian River Recreation Complex
- Peters Complex (in conjunction with school services)
- Department of Public Works Garage Facility
- Department of Public Works Transfer Facility
- Clinton Town Beach
- Clinton Town Marina
- Post Office Square Business District