



TOWN OF BOLTON

MASSACHUSETTS

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SNOW PLOWING POLICY & OPERATIONS

The following is a general description of the Bolton snow removal plan. So you are aware, each storm is different. However, we do try to follow our snow removal policy as closely as possible.

Our Snow & Ice Removal Program entails three (3) steps:

1. The beginning of the storm
2. During the storm
3. Following the storm

Step 1.

When a snowstorm begins, the Department responds by anti-icing all roads in Town. Treating these roadways serves two purposes. It prevents the snow from bonding and compacting to the pavement and it keeps traffic moving. During certain weather situations, such as ice storms, multiple rounds of de-icing may be applied.

Step 2.

Plowing operations begin when two to three (2-3) inches of snow accumulate on the ground. Each vehicle is assigned to pre-determined route and will remain in this pattern until the storm subsides. The main objective “during” the storm is to keep roadways passable. The department’s snow-fighting ability can be limited depending on the type of precipitation and how quickly it is falling. With our present work-force and equipment, the Department can generally remove snow that is falling at a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ ” per hour or less.

Step 3.

At the end of the storm, the plows begin to widen out all roads by pushing back the amassed snow beyond the edge of the road. Residents may want to wait until the roads have been widened out before clearing the entrance to their driveways. If a storm ends during the evening hours or over the weekend, widening will occur during regular Public Works hours, 7:00AM to 3:30PM Monday through Friday.

Please be advised that the snow must not be shoveled or plowed back into the roadway from the residents’ driveway (Town Bylaw Section 1.19). This creates a hazard to traffic and requires our staff to return to clean it at the residents’ expense. A fine not more than \$100.00 will be levied.

The Public Works Department staff is well trained and dedicated to work “around the clock”, if necessary, keeping the roadways open and passable. If a plow truck is traveling with its plow up, please do not be misled. They may be returning to the garage for fuel or repairs or might be headed to another section to assist with snow removal.

Easements

A large area of concern is mailboxes. We do not deliberately knock over or damage mailboxes. With the combination of reduced visibility during a snow storm and snow banks, it is not always possible for our drivers to see a mailbox in time to avoid a collision with the wing plow or heavy snow that is thrown by the moving plow. Remember that any installation within the right-of-way (ex: mailboxes, lawns, sprinkler heads, fences, steps, trees, shrubs, etc...) is placed there at the owner’s risk. The Town of Bolton will not repair or replace anything that lies within the Town easement. Consequently, residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the pavement and should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secure and that wood posts are in tact.

Spot Sanding

There are times during light precipitation and freeze / thaw cycles where “spot sanding” is necessary. This is generally initiated by the Bolton Police Department. If the Police Department and/or the D.P.W. feels spot sanding is needed in an area after hours, the D.P.W. will be called in to address the immediate problem. Once that problem is addressed, the crew will then check other areas of Town to see if treatment is needed elsewhere.