

Town of Stoughton

10 Pearl Street • Stoughton, MA 02072 • (781) 341-1300 • FAX (781) 344-5048
www.stoughton-ma.gov

Snow Related Information

Snow Related Notices

A Winter Parking Ban from November through April is in effect to aid in the clearing of streets in an efficient and safe manner.

Barrels of mixed sand and salt will be located outside of the DPW office for use by town residents only. (Limit of (2) 5 gallon pails per resident)

DPW Responsibilities: The Town of Stoughton Department of Public Works is responsible for providing snow and ice control for **151** miles of streets and cul-de-sacs and **74.14** miles of sidewalks. Department of Public Works personnel are also responsible for snow removal from all Town buildings including the Town Hall, the Library, Police Station, Fire Stations, and DPW offices.

DPW Resources: The Stoughton DPW have 38 personnel plus 8 supervisory staff available utilizing roughly **35** pieces of equipment ranging from front end loaders/backhoes and sidewalk plows for snow removal. The DPW also utilizes private plow contractors.

General Procedure: Roadway snowplowing typically begins when the snow accumulation approaches 2 inches. Pre-treating the roadway with a salt/sand mixture may occur before that, possibly even before the first snowflake hits the ground. Roadway plowing activities will continue as needed throughout the storm. Once the snowfall has ended, post storm related activities, including sidewalk and parking lot snow removal begin. This may mean that a final treatment of sand/salt is applied. Related storm clean-up will be undertaken in the days following the storm. The hours required to adequately handle a storm can be extraordinarily long and intense, with operations conducted during the most severe weather and driving conditions.

Sidewalks: The Town of Stoughton provides some sidewalk clearing generally in the downtown area and on walking routes to Town Schools only. The Town does not clear all sidewalks in residential neighborhoods.

Blocked Driveways: It is impossible for Town crews to avoid plowing snow in front of driveways. The process of plowing requires multiple passes down a street the plow the entire road. Please do not block the roadway or approach the truck to avoid snow plowed into your driveway. These actions are dangerous and only prolong the road clearing process. You might want to wait for the road to be completely cleared so that you only have to shovel once. However, this can cause heavy piles of snow in front of driveways during heavy snowstorms. Residents are encouraged to shovel several times throughout a heavy snowstorm. The DPW does not have the resources to plow out driveway entrances or blocked mailboxes.

Winter Tips to Help Stoughton Open up the Streets

The Stoughton DPW wants to provide the best possible service cleaning our streets of snow and ice. Here are a few tip to help out crew do their job:

Medical/Fire or Police Emergencies: If you have a fire/medical or police emergency, call 911. Ambulances and police can usually access any property under most conditions. Town plows will accompany if needed.

Power Loss: Do NOT call 911 or the DPW. Please call National Grid directly at 1-800-322-3223

Downed Trees Blocking Traffic: Please call DPW (M-F 7-3:30) 781-344-2112. After hours and on weekends dial 911.

Don't Drive: Don't drive unnecessarily in a storm, especially during severe snowstorms and freezing rains. You will endanger your life, and the lives of others, including first responders and emergency personnel.

Parking Ban: The Town has a parking ban prohibiting cars from being parked on public streets during the winter. Vehicles that interfere with removal of snow and ice from any public ways in the town are subject to a fine and the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.

Shoveling of Snow: Do not shovel snow into the road or have your driveway plowed into the road. This can cause a serious traffic hazard. You may create liability for yourself if there is an accident as a result.

Trash/Recycling: Do not place trash or recycling bins in the street or in snow banks during snow storms, as they will interfere with snowplowing.

Mailboxes: Help reduce the possibility of a broken mailbox post. Plow operators are urged to take precautions to avoid hitting mailbox posts: however, experience has shown that reduced visibility during a storm makes it difficult for a driver to see a mailbox post in time to avoid striking it or pushing it over with plowed snow. Any installation within the right-of-way, including a mailbox, is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, owners are encouraged to install mailboxes at the maximum usable distance from the edge of the roadway. Posts should also be checked for deterioration to reduce the possibility that the weight of plowed snow may simply break the post.

Fire Hydrants: Fire Hydrants need to be accessible at all times. Crews are not available to clear out fire hydrants. Residents are encouraged to shovel snow to provide access to hydrants on or around their property.

Raised Plows: Please don't misinterpret trucks running with their plows raised, or on standby. They may waiting for salt and sand to work loosening the bond between pavement and ice, allowing effective plowing, may be returning for fuel or may be en route to another area.

Calls: Avoid calling municipal offices during a storm for routine matters. Personnel are extremely busy dealing with storm conditions. It is best to keep telephone lines clear for emergencies.

Help Others in Need: Some residents have disabilities or health risks and are unable to shovel heavy snow. Please help neighbors who need assistance in clearing the heavy snow from driveways and sidewalks. Residents unable to shovel should seek out help from a neighbor, family member, or hire a landscape/snow removal company to remove snow from their driveway.