

## *Snow and Winter Guidelines*

The Department of Public Works clears snow and ice from approximately 220 lane miles of roadway and 2 miles of sidewalk. In addition, the Department is responsible for the clearing of snow from the public schools, municipal parking lots and all of the public parks.

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### *Snow Plowing*

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The following is a general description of how the Department of Public Works plows snow from Town streets:

**Step 1** - When a snow storm begins, the DPW responds by salting the roads. Salting the roadways serves two purposes: to keep traffic moving, and to prevent the snow from bonding to the pavement.

**Step 2** - Snow plowing begins when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or forecasts indicate that it will. Town plows are called out and assigned to plow 14 pre-determined routes. The Town's policy is to plow the full width of the street, curb to curb, during each storm.

**Step 3** - Once snowfall has stopped and plowing is winding down, trucks begin post-storm salting.

Snow plowing operations remain underway until all roadways are cleared adequately for the safety of the traveling public. Please consider this timetable when you open your driveways or clear your front walkways and sidewalks so that you may not be disappointed when a snowplow passes by after the snow has stopped falling.

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### *Sidewalks*

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Property owners or occupants are responsible for keeping the sidewalk in front of and adjacent to the property clear of snow and ice. Please cooperate so that school children and other pedestrians will be able to safely use the public walkways and avoid having to walk into the street.

*Have you Shoveled?*

*If you own a property or business please remember to do the following:*

- ❖ Maintain all sidewalks abutting your property or business in a non-slippery condition free of ice and snow.
- ❖ If you are out of town or unable to clear ice and snow because of physical limitations, please be sure to have someone else prepared to maintain the sidewalk for you.
- ❖ Clear openings at intersections and crosswalks so pedestrians can cross safely.

## Driveways

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While we try to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed into driveways it is unavoidable. Clearing driveway openings is the responsibility of the property owner.

- ❖ Plow blades cannot be lifted as the pass by a driveway.
- ❖ Snow can get plowed into driveways as we perform curb to curb plowing.
- ❖ You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing activities have ended.
- ❖ Shoveling, plowing or snow blowing snow back into the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks is prohibited. If you or a contractor, use a snow plow to clear a driveway do not push the snow into or across the road. **Violators will be fined.**

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## Mailbox Replacement Policy

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In order to provide fair and uniform resolution to incidents involving mailboxes damaged by a Town snowplow the Town of Stonington adopted a new policy concerning the repair/replacement of mail boxes. See the link to review the full policy.

They Town will replace a mailbox only when the Town snowplow is found to have made direct contact with the mailbox, not when the box is knocked over by the snow or slush thrown from the plow. Basketball hoops, sprinkler systems and other improvements within the town right of way are not permitted and will not be replaced or reimbursed by the Town.

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## Complaints

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Plowing snow from Stonington's streets is a formidable task. It involves coordinating plows, mechanics, administrative assistant, and foreman to inspect and control plowing activities and other support personnel. The hours can be extraordinarily long, with operations conducted during the most severe weather and driving conditions. We realize that in an operation of such size and complexity there are bound to be complaints or requests for additional service.

**Calls for service should be avoided early in a storm since it may take several hours for plows to make their way to your street.** If you believe that a request for service is warranted and sufficient time has elapsed for us to have responded, please call (860) 535-5055, Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Remember, driving in winter snowstorms should be avoided whenever possible. Our work to restore safe road conditions is completed quicker and more efficiently when roads are free of traffic and illegally parked vehicles.