



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

Public Works Department

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Winter Maintenance Information

The Hopewell Township Public Works Department is responsible for ensuring Township roadways are safe and accessible as reasonably possible during the winter season. Snow removal and ice control are provided for 144 miles of roadway. During winter conditions please drive with caution and adjust your speed accordingly since hazardous conditions may exist due to snow, wind, and freezing temperatures.

Snow and ice control is considered to be emergent work. Roadways must be cleared any time of the day or night. Factors such as the rate and accumulation of snowfall, moisture content, temperature, time of day, wind direction, velocity, and duration are all taken into consideration in our approach to responding to each individual winter event.

Snow plowing is an imperfect process and certain inconveniences are unavoidable. Township plows must operate at a minimum rate of speed in order to create enough momentum to remove snow from the road, therefore, windrows are unavoidable. Clearing to the curb or edge of pavement is necessary to keep drainage paths open and prevent ice accumulation.

The most common complaints received by the Township are damage to mailboxes and the plowing closed of previously cleared driveways and sidewalks. There are no remedies to these problems.

Mail Boxes



At times, snow and heavy slush discharged from a plow will damage or knock down a mailbox. Most mailboxes will withstand these conditions but many do not. It is not possible for the plow driver to anticipate conditions that might damage a mailbox or avoid mailboxes without compromising the ability to clear the public roadway.

It is recommended that mailboxes be checked every fall to ensure the posts are not rotted and that the mailbox is properly fastened to its post. Each property owner should check their mailbox door when it is opened to ensure that it is a minimum of 6 inches behind the face of the curb (or where the curb would be).

Prior to the start of winter, homeowners should reset any mailboxes protruding past the minimum measurement of 6 inches behind the face of the curb or edge of pavement. This will effort will help ensure the mailbox will not be damaged during snow removal operations.

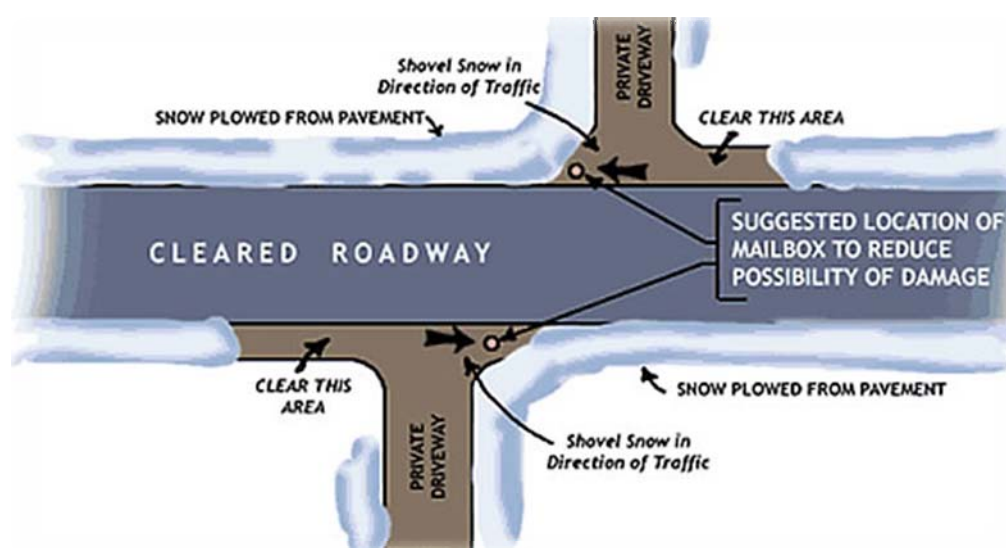
The U.S. Postal Service requests the cooperation of postal customers in keeping the approaches to and exit from the mailbox clear of snow, ice, vehicles, trash cans and other objects.

Your assistance is needed in removing the snow from in front of your mailbox. The extreme ice and snow, when packed around the mailbox, prevents trucks from removing the snow without causing damage to the mailbox (see driveway clearing diagram below).

Driveway Clearing

Plowing and salting are difficult operations to perform. Residents are prohibited from parking vehicles in streets when roads are snow covered. This is to facilitate snow removal and to provide for emergency vehicle passage.

Please keep in mind that it is almost impossible to keep snow from being deposited in your driveway as plows cannot be lifted or stopped at each driveway as it passes. When you or your contractor remove snow from your driveway it is recommended that the area to the left of the drive entrance (standing in the driveway, facing the street) is cleared. This will make room for the snow being plowed from the street to be deposited in this area. It is necessary during most storm events to make several passes in order to clear snow all the way to the curb (or where the curb would be) to allow for property drainage.



Please, do not push snow from your driveway into the roadway as this creates traffic hazards and slows the overall plowing operations.

Township's snow removal operators are human and during a storm they work long hours trying to do their best for the benefit of all. We appreciate your patience.

Please report mailbox damage or any other issues by email to publicworks@hopewelltp.org, by Phone 609-737-0799 or by Fax 609-737-2813. Thank you.