



# TOWNSHIP OF WARMINSTER

*Department of Public Works*

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## Snow and Ice Removal

### Overview

Winter months present not only a unique challenge but also an opportunity for the Township and residents to work together in the common goal of safe, timely, and efficient snow removal. The following information will be useful to Township residents regarding best practices and also requirements during a snow or ice event.

### Plowing Issues

If residents have any issues or concerns with plowing operations, they should call Warminster Township at (267) 317-1310. The Public Works Department will attempt to respond to your call in a timely manner.

### Information for Residents

- A *Snow Emergency* in Warminster Township may be declared with as little as 3" depth. Ice events will also be declared as Snow Emergencies. Snow Emergencies shall remain in effect for the period of 72 hours after the storm has passed.
- All on street parking of any vehicle will be *prohibited* on Township streets during a Snow Emergency. Vehicles parked in violation may be ticketed and towed if necessary according to the determination of the Township.
- When snow is plowed from the streets and is deposited in aprons and driveways, it is the responsibility of the resident to remove the snow from this area.
- When snow is plowed from the streets and is deposited around mailboxes, it is the responsibility of the resident to remove this snow to allow access for the US Postal Service.
- Residents shall not park vehicles close to where the plows will be operating. Vehicles may not be parked closer than six (6) feet from the curb or edge of the street.
- Downed tree branches that are in the roadway will be removed by Public Works and any branches will be placed on the property where they came from. Residents will be responsible for their disposal.
- Sidewalks must be cleared within a 24 hour period after the storm has passed. Violators may be cited according to Township ordinance. Delayed sidewalk clearing is permitted when heavy snow accumulations cause plowed snow from the roadway to accumulate in the sidewalk area. In this event, residents are advised to wait until it is clear that Township plowing is completed before clearing their sidewalks. Residents can contact Public Works directly at (267) 317-1310 to find out if plowing is completed on their street.
- Residents shall clear the fire hydrant located in front of their property so that it is fully accessible in the event of a fire within 24 hours after snow has stopped falling.

# Township Responsibilities

The Warminster Township Public Works Department is responsible for the safe, efficient snow removal operations that cover over 100 miles of Township roads. For some storms, subcontractors are brought in to assist and clear the roads as soon as possible. The Township is divided into sectors that are assigned to individual teams of plow trucks. Roads considered to be “main arteries”, emergency response routes and emergency centers, and school bus routes will be considered first priority during plowing operations. . Main arteries in Warminster Township are roads such as Valley Road, Delmont Avenue, Norristown Road, Centennial Road and other roads where traffic volumes are higher. Secondary and development street plowing will continue after the priority areas are cleared. Township owned sidewalks will also be cleared by the Public Works Department.

## Obstructions

- Responsibility for any damage caused to any resident vehicle or other obstruction in the Township right of way during plowing operations shall lie with the resident. This includes any damage to a Township vehicle incurred as a result of an obstruction in the right of way. The right of way during plowing operations shall be a minimum of six (6) feet outside of the curb or edge of road.
- Portable basketball poles are to be moved out of the plowing right of way or six (6) feet from the curb or edge of roadway. Permanent basketball poles that are near the edge of a Township road are in violation of the Warminster Township Ordinance that prohibits structures in the Township right of way and must be removed.
- Mailboxes that are mounted to extend past the face of curbs or edges of roads are considered obstructions. Damage to these mailboxes will be the responsibility of the resident. Damage to mailboxes with rotting wooden posts, or otherwise poorly secured, will be the responsibility of the resident. If a resident feels that the Township is responsible for damaging their mailbox, the report must be filed with Warminster Township at (215) 443-5414. *Plow damage to mailboxes must be reported to Warminster Township within 48 hours of the damage incident.*
- Trash and recycling containers are considered obstructions during a winter weather event. These containers must be kept out of the right of way.

## Reminders

- During a snow event, residents *may not* snow blow, plow, or shovel any snow into any Township street. This act is illegal and violators may be cited.
- Please keep children out of the right of way area during snow plowing operations. No snow forts or tunnels within the right of way will be permitted.
- Resident mailboxes must be mounted on a secure post. Damage caused to any mailbox that is the result of snow that is being removed from the roadway will be the responsibility of the resident. Damage caused to any mailbox that is the result of being struck by a Township plow will be the responsibility of the Township unless the mailbox is mounted as stated in “Obstructions”. Damage caused to any mailbox that is the result of being struck by a Township subcontractor will be the responsibility of the subcontractor unless the mailbox is mounted as stated in “Obstructions”.
- *Plow damage to mailboxes must be reported to Warminster Township within 48 hours.*
- Winter can be a very busy season. Please plan ahead if using contracted winter services. Residents are still responsible for snow removal despite contractor delays.