

# Town of Woodbridge

## Snow Plowing Policy

The Town of Woodbridge maintains approximately 80 miles of local roadway. Additionally, the CTDOT maintains approximately 22 miles of roadway in the town. Snow plowing efforts require multiple passes in order to remove snow from the roadways. Snow is moved from the center of the road to the edge of the road (typically in two passes for each lane). Snow can be wet/heavy or dry/fluffy, but always re-deposits over fallen snow. Snow operations are divided into 9 plow routes. It takes Town drivers approximately two hours to go through a route once. The Town also plows Beecher School and all Town Facility parking lots.

**PLOW ROUTES:** The roadway is plowed and sanded/treated in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. Side (secondary) roads are done next. Cul-de-sacs and intersections are cleared/widened after roads are passable.

**BLOCKED DRIVEWAYS:** All snow plows are angled to the driver's right, this will result in snow being pushed into driveway openings. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling or plowing is to wait until DPW crews are done with final clean-up on the roads.

**PRIVATE PLOWING:** The Town has an Ordinance (375-19) which prohibits residents and/or contractors from pushing snow/ice from driveways or parking lots onto Town roads. It can be dangerous for motorists and impedes DPW's snow removal effort. If there is no alternative, snow piles, including rows and ridges must be plowed off the road until travel to the road is not impaired. This means snow from private property must be placed beyond the edge of the road and conditions must at least equal what conditions were present before starting a driveway. Homeowners can be fined for neglect of a contractor.

**MAILBOX DAMAGE:** Mailboxes are typically installed in the road right-of-way that is directly in the path of snow removal operations. Mailboxes and posts should be able to withstand the rigors of winter snow removal operations. Mailboxes should be correctly installed 15" beyond the road edge and the bottom of the mailbox should be 42" high from the road shoulder. It is suggested that inspections be performed prior to the winter season and deficiencies corrected. In addition, a snow deflector of some kind should be installed to aid in protecting the post and mailbox. Only mailboxes and posts that are damaged by direct contact from the plow or vehicle will be replaced. Snow or the force of snow removal is not direct contact. A temporary mailbox or repairs to existing posts or mailboxes may be performed. All replacements will be of a standard 4"x 4" post and standard mailbox at the discretion of DPW.

**PARKED VEHICLES:** Parked vehicles create a hazard and impede snow removal operations during snow storms. The Police Department will usually notify the media when a ban is implemented. A parked vehicle forces a plow driver to veer away and leave a vehicle blocked with snow. It causes lane restrictions and impairs visibility for pedestrians and motorists.