



Howard Public Works Department

Snow Removal Frequently Asked Questions

A street near mine was just plowed. Does that mean mine will be next?

Plow routes in the Village of Howard are prioritized with consideration to arterial and collector streets, streets around schools, hills and bridges. Residential streets are then plowed by breaking the route into sections. Because of this, the street next to you may have been plowed but does not necessarily mean your street will be plowed next. [Click here](#) to view the map of prioritized routes.

Can the snow be plowed to the median/boulevard of the street?

Medians and boulevards typically do not get plowed to the middle because the snow banks create vision issues at intersections. Medians and boulevards are also designed to drain water from the middle of the road to the curb. Plowing snow to the center median results in melting snow to run across the road; this can refreeze and create icy roadway conditions.

Why did the snowplow bury my sidewalk? Why do the plows drive so fast that they throw snow all over my sidewalk?

Village of Howard plowing crews do not intentionally bury sidewalks. The plows need to drive at a certain rate of speed to get the snow up and on top of the snow bank. As a result, some snow may roll up and over the snow bank and fall onto your sidewalk. If they plow too slowly, the snow sloughs off the banks back into the road, narrowing the streets as winter progresses. If they plow too fast, the snow may go over the bank and sometimes onto the sidewalk. Sometimes the area between the curb and sidewalk is quite narrow offering little storage area for the snow, which compounds the problem. To some extent snow will always and unavoidably be deflected onto sidewalks and some will fall back into the street.

Can you plow my street first in case I have a medical emergency and an ambulance needs to get through?

The Village of Howard Public Works and Public Safety departments work closely together during snow events. If there is an emergency, medical or otherwise, we work together to assure access for all emergency vehicles.

Will I get a bill or a citation if I don't remove the snow and ice from my sidewalk? What if the snow was from the village plow?

You have 24 hours from the end of a snow event to clear your sidewalk, regardless if the snow was deposited from a plow. If you do not remove the snow and ice from your sidewalk within 24 hours, the village will remove it at your expense.

Why do I get more snow on my corner lot than others do in the middle of the block?

All of the snow accumulates on the front of the plow as it starts to turn the corner. All of this extra snow releases from the plow as it slowly turns the corner, typically leaving a large pile at the point of the turn and extending 100 or more feet down the block to the first driveway. Also, there is more road surface area in an intersection than in a typical mid-block road area, which further increases the amount of snow coming off the plow at that point.

What can I do about snow plows that block my driveway or mailbox with snow?

This is an unfortunate side effect of plowing all streets in the village. All snow must be plowed to the curb and as a result, driveways get blocked with the wet, heavy snow from the plow. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear the snow from the bottom of the driveway and around the mailbox.

The plow damaged my mailbox, curb, or other property. Will it be repaired or replaced?

Proper mailbox placement is important for village crews as well as Post Office mail carriers. Snowplows, street sweepers, and garbage trucks can damage mailboxes that extend over the road. Please check your mailbox to make sure that it follows Post Office guidelines. Mailboxes should be installed at a height of 42-48 inches from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry and set back 8 inches from the front face of the curb or road edge to the mailbox door. Where there is no curb, the height of the mailbox should be 48 inches from the top of the ground to the bottom of the mailbox. [Click here](#) for more information about proper mailbox placement. The village will not be responsible for any damages to mailboxes that don't meet the above requirements.

If a properly installed mailbox is damaged by a snowplow, the property owner should call the Public Works Facility at (920) 434-4060. Upon verification of the claim, the village will replace a damaged post and mailbox with a standard 4x4 post and mailbox. Property owners having a decorative or Rubbermaid type of mailbox may elect to be reimbursed \$50.00 rather than receive a standard mailbox replacement. The Department of Public Works will not make this payment for mailboxes that are damaged due to the force of the snow or for rotted posts, etc. Only in the event that the mailbox is properly installed and our equipment actually strikes a mailbox causing damage will payment be made.

Each winter, our plows unavoidably cause some damage to curbs and terrace areas through our snow plowing efforts. Each spring, the Public Works Department repairs curb sections and top soils and seeds damaged terrace areas at no charge to residents. Calls regarding curb or terrace damage should be directed to the Public Works Facility at (920) 434-4060.

Many residents place decorative curbing, landscaping, dog fences and sprinkler systems in the right of way (village-owned terrace area) without a permit, and they also occasionally get damaged. The village appreciates the fact that our residents take pride in making their yards look great. Even though the village would like to reimburse for these types of unintentional damages, we cannot.