

Snow Storm Questions and Answers

Q1. When will my street get plowed?

The primary high traffic roads are done first. West Jersey, Ridge, Tremont, Delaware, Hingston, Blackman, and Robert Best are the priority areas. These roads must be kept clear to provide emergency vehicles access to County roads and hospitals.

The next priority is main streets going into the developments. The last priority is smaller streets and cul-de-sacs. The township attempts to hit as many neighborhoods as possible.

Once most streets are passable, the crews return and widen out the primary streets and then attempt to plow curb to curb on the smaller streets and cul-de-sacs.

Q2. Why does it take so long to get the roads open?

Many factors influence snow removal including depth of snow, icing, wetness of snow, and vehicles. The Township has over 400 miles of roads to plow. The largest trucks have 11 foot wide plows but it still takes 3 passes to get the streets plowed curb to curb. Snow removal equipment is normally able to maintain an average speed of 10 miles an hour on open streets. When cars are parked on the street the speed is reduced to less than 5 miles an hour. With cars parked on both sides of the street it is sometimes impossible for a plow to get through.

Q3. The plow is going down the street and the blade is up. Why doesn't the plow always plow snow?

The Township does not plow County and State roads, therefore if we are traveling on these roads the plow is up. The truck may also be headed for another part of town. The town is broken up into zones and plows are sent to each zone. A plow may be up for mechanical reasons or the truck may be returning to the shop for gas/crew change.

Q4. Why can't the driver lift the blade before he plows in my driveway?

The answer should be obvious; we would never get the streets open if we stopped at each driveway. You can help yourself reduce your shoveling. Look in the direction of the street that the truck will come down. Shovel an area along the curb in that direction approximately ten feet by two feet. This allows an area for the snow to dump into before it gets to your driveway. This will greatly reduce the amount of snow that is plowed into your driveway.

Q5. Is it legal to park on the street during a snow event?

The answer is NO. Please park in your driveway or in your yard. This allows the plow full access to the street and the Public works Department can get the streets

cleared faster. The Police Department is authorized to write tickets for cars parked on the street and can even have your car towed.

Q6. Why are intersections the only areas that get salted?

Intersections receive priority treatment because we want to make sure cars are able to safely come to a stop. Salt, by itself, does not totally melt ice. Traffic on salted streets helps to break up the ice also. In the December 2009 storm, the Township spent nearly \$30,000 on salt. If we were to attempt to salt every street in the Township, the cost would exceed \$500,000.

Q7. What can the public do to help get their streets plowed sooner?

Please park in your driveway and stay off the streets as much as possible. This gives us the time we need to do a better job of getting your street plowed and providing you with a safer journey.

Q8. What if I have an emergency and need assistance?

The Township will respond with the appropriate emergency equipment to assist you. Plows will leave their assigned areas to ensure the ambulance or fire trucks can make it to you. The Fire Department has plows on some of their pickup trucks so that they can plow out fire department members. These members are the ones who will respond to your emergency.