

CITY OF ASHTABULA
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SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Snow & Ice Control Program

The City of Ashtabula Public Works Department (CAPWD) has a fleet of 10 vehicles for snow removal (8 trucks with salt spreaders and 2 loaders) and a staff of 10 licensed operators used to clear snow and ice from the City's roads. Additional employees of the City are also capable of operating snow removal equipment and are used as needed on secondary call out lists. These vehicles are outfitted with appropriately sized plows, salt spreaders, and maintenance measures are performed well in advance of the first sign of snow or ice to prepare for winter duty. The City purchases and uses on average approximately 2,500 tons of salt during the winter season.

Starting in the month of December, the City begins a 3rd Shift of operators from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to clear roadways overnight and prepare them for the morning commute. Once this shift starts, it is also possible to run our operation of snow removal continuously for 24 hours by bringing this shift in four hours early and holding our 1st Shift over for four hours. After all our roads have been cleared, crews begin to work on the accumulated piles of snow in our Downtown and Harbor Business Districts which builds up on the curb line preventing parking access and sidewalk travel.

Snow Routes

The CAPWD removes snow and ice in 5 Wards/Routes throughout the City. This consists of over 260 public major, main and secondary roads. If you were to just measure the centerline distance of these roads within the City limits, this equates to over 90 center lane miles of road to maintain. Unlike neighboring Townships, the City is also responsible for all State routes and County roads within the City limits such as Rt. 20, Rt. 84 and Rt. 531 (Lake Road) to name a few. ODOT does maintain the end of Rt. 11 from E. 21st St. to the northern terminus.

Winter Storms in General

The severity of the snow event determines the frequency that the roads are plowed and salted. There is no way to estimate the timeframe it will take to clear each road since no two events or storms are alike. We ask residents and businesses to be patient; we will clear the streets as soon as possible. Our goal is to clear all roads within 24 hours of the end of the snow event.

After Hours, Weekends, and Holidays

When a snow event occurs on weekends or after normal hours of operation, the City's Police Department notifies the Public Works Department to have street crews dispatched into service. It is likely our staff could be working 12 hour shifts during such snow events.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Sidewalk and Driveway Policy

The City of Ashtabula does **not** clear sidewalks or driveways. These are the responsibility of the home or business owner. It is unfortunate but snow plow drivers cannot control the snow coming off the edge of the plow. To avoid additional snow entering onto your driveway apron, please remove the snow in your driveway into your yard and not back into the street. There are City Codified Ordinances which apply to the proper removal of snow.

PLEASE BE PATIENT

We will get to your roads as quickly as possible.

1. Please do **not** park your vehicles in the roadway during bad weather. This will make it easier and quicker for the snow removal process to be completed. It will also lessen the chance of possible damage to your vehicle. OBSERVE THE CITY'S SNOW PARKING BAN SIGNS; This Ban is enforced by City.
2. Do **not** stop too closely behind a stopped snow plow truck. The driver may be preparing to backup and may not see you during a snow event.
3. Stay at least 50 feet behind any snow plow trucks. Most snow trucks are dispensing salt, and a safe operating distance will lessen the impact of salt hitting your vehicle.
4. Do **not** pass a snow plow truck unless you have perfect visibility and a clear/safe passing lane. Remember, the driver is focused on the challenges in front of the truck as such; swirling snow, icy conditions, slippery roads, etc....

General Safety Warning

Please do **not** allow your child to play in snow piled alongside the streets or cul-de-sacs. Children playing in these areas may make snow forts and be hidden from the plow truck, not realizing the danger of not being seen and potential for serious injury.

Snow Plowing Procedure

It is the goal to get the roads clear from snow and ice as quickly as possible. The CAPWD works to clear the major roads and potentially critical areas of the City first. Major roads are defined as "key" roads in which much of the traffic flows into via other main or secondary roads. Critical areas are defined as those areas where there is a greater chance of accident or impact of public health and safety; they would include but may not be limited to; accessibility to hospitals, schools, government buildings, roads having severe elevation changes (hilly inclines), and roads that intersect railroad crossings. Secondary roads are defined as areas that do not collect traffic directly into major roads, but would primarily have to flow into a main road before reaching a major road and are determined a "dead end" road.

While clearing these major roads and critical areas, the plow trucks are typically operating in tandem (one lead truck and one trailing truck). This method of plowing permits the City to clear snow and ice from the center lane with the trailing truck positioned to clear off to the curb area and intersections. This way of plowing promotes the best practices of clearing roadways and lessens problems for general traffic to traverse the roads during snow events. Using trucks in tandem also helps control and create more efficient level of salt distribution, as salt is only applied once to the road surface after the majority of snow has been removed. This creates a more efficient use of expensive material and lessens the amount of salt being discharged onto the tree lawn areas.

Below is an **example listing** of some roads by classification that are plowed and salted within the City limits during winter weather events (Please remember there are over 260 roads within the City of Ashtabula);

<u>Major Road and Critical Areas</u>	<u>Secondary Roads</u>	<u>Neighborhood Roads</u>
Lake Ave., West Ave., Rt 20, W. 9 th St (SR 531) Main Ave., Bridge St., State Rd., W. 19 th St.	Harbor Ave., Columbus Ave., Center St. Station Ave., W. 13 th St. W. 58 th St. Benefit Ave.	Roads leading to Major Roads and Secondary Roadways