



# BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

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Bruce Smith, Director of Public Works

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SNOW REMOVAL

The goal of the Township's snow removal plan is to have all of the streets cleared, as close to curb as possible, eight hours after the stop of a 4-6-inch snowfall. High winds may delay this goal as the equipment is diverted back to busier roads. Icing, mechanical problems, snowfalls of long duration, and other public emergencies may also interfere with this goal. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the Public Works Department's snow removal efforts.

### **When Are Streets Plowed?**

Plowing generally begins when snow accumulation reaches three inches, but the Public Works department may begin sooner. If there is a light snowfall and the afternoon sun is melting the fallen snow, it will be left to Mother Nature to remove the snow.

### **Why is Snow Always Left at the End of my Driveway?**

Although crews do not place snow in driveways on purpose, there is no practical way for the snowplow operator to cut off the window of snow when crossing a driveway. This problem is especially acute in cul-de-sacs because this is a very confined space. Cul-de-sacs require that all of the snow that is on the roadway within that confined space be placed along the outside of the circle. The problem is compounded by the fact that each homeowner then must clear their driveway, which places large piles on the corners of the drives.

One thing you can do to reduce the amount of snow that is plowed in front of your driveway is to place as much of the snow as possible to the right side of your drive, as you face the street. This reduces the chance of snow previously removed from the driveway being pushed back onto your drive. This suggestion, however, may not work in cul-de-sacs that have driveway openings placed close together.

### **Why is Snow Piled on my Corner?**

Snow that accumulates across the side road at the street corner needs to be pushed back onto the corner. This is done to properly clear the street radius and allow cars to turn. The snowplow driver typically pushes snow back onto the corner in the direction the truck is traveling. This is why a particular corner may get more snow on it than another. It is not practical to require that the large snowplow truck attempt to maneuver around the intersection to equally distribute snow on opposite corners. This is difficult to accomplish and is also time-consuming during significant snowstorms.

Snow piled at the street corner is of particular concern where there may be school bus stops. If there is an accumulation of snow at the corner of a bus stop, children may have to move up the street in order to board the school bus. Please instruct children not to climb on the piles that have accumulated at the corners. If a snow pile on a particular corner becomes a sight distance problem, please call the Public Works Department and the snow can be removed as time permits (609-239-5909).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SNOW REMOVAL**

### **Why Can't Plows Push Snow to Side of Road Without Mailboxes or Toward Center Islands?**

Every effort will be made to take unique street circumstances into account. However, it is extremely difficult and time consuming to push at a reverse angle, particularly around turns, circles, and cul-de-sacs. Trucks are not built to be articulated into an angle that would allow this type of plowing, and centrifugal force causes the snow to move off of the plow toward the outside of the turn. Public Work's goal in clearing all streets is to maintain as much of the normal pavement width as possible, while at the same time, allowing acceptable access to the mailboxes by the postal carriers.

### **Is it the Residents' Responsibility to Dig Out Fire Hydrant?**

The Burlington County Public Safety Department officials are asking residents who live near fire hydrants to dig out the snow from around the hydrants to allow firemen and emergency personnel access when responding to fires. Snow hinders response to fires and having access to the nearest hydrant can dramatically help firemen.

### **What can I Do to Help?**

One major problem that works against snow removal operations is people shoveling or blowing snow back onto the street after it has been plowed and salted. Township ordinance prohibits placing snow back onto the roadway once it has been plowed. Snow that has been deposited onto the street could refreeze and cause a hazardous condition for you or your neighbors. Please place the snow that you shovel off of your driveway and sidewalk onto the adjacent parkway and not back onto the street.

When it starts to snow, park your vehicle off of the street. This protects the car from being splashed with slush and salt and prevents the car from being plowed in. Check that your mailbox and post are in good repair and that they are behind the curb, not leaning out over the street

Please remove portable basketball hoops from the street right of way. If they are left in an area where they can be damaged by our snow removal operations, we will not be responsible for any damage.

### **What to do When Hazards are Identified After Plowing Operation Have Ended?**

Call the Public Works Department at 609-239-5909. Hours Monday thru Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm.

**Please be patient. This is particularly important during blizzards and extended storms when the Township has to stagger crew hours and or assist the Police Department, Fire Department, or Rescue Squad with snow-related accidents and emergencies.**