

TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH

WINTER WEATHER GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The Town of New Marlborough will provide reasonable snow and ice control to public roads and public properties. Our top concerns will continue to be personal safety, environmental protection and cost. Town employees and private contractors will provide these services. Motorists should use their best judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather. With this in mind, the Town has approximately 90 miles of roads that the Highway Department is responsible for. With a limited number of highway workers, we ask for your patience and cooperation.

WINTER PARKING BANS

From the November 1st through April 15th, vehicles are not to be parked or left unattended on any road or property that is maintained by the Town; with the exception of the center of Mill River and the center of Southfield, during business hours. Be sure that vehicles parked in driveways are far enough off the road. When vehicles are left unattended on the roadways, they can interfere with plowing operations and be dangerous to the snowplows, operators, personal property and pedestrians. Vehicles found in violation of these parking regulations may be towed at the owner's expense.

PRIVATE SNOWPLOW OPERATORS

Individuals who plow or blow snow into or across the roads, or dispose of snow on Town properties can be ticketed.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Highway workers do their best to avoid damaging private property. Anything installed in the Town's right-of-way (mailboxes, fences, signs, etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. We recommend that mailboxes be 3-4 feet away from the edge of the road with an apron, where the mail carriers can pull off the road to make deliveries. Because roads vary in condition, please use your best judgment. Residents are responsible for keeping 10 feet on either side of mailboxes clear for the mail carriers. Please realize, the Town does not reimburse for property damaged by snowplows. Privately owned items should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secured properly and that wood posts have not rotted.

SAND FOR RESIDENTS

Sand, for residential use on your own personal property, is always available at the Highway Garage. New Marlborough residents are asked to take no more than five gallons at a time.

WINTER STORM OPERATIONS

Salt is applied to paved roads as the snow begins to fall to prevent it from adhering to the pavement. It continues to be applied to main roads and Town properties during a storm at a rate that keeps the snow from sticking. This process allows for quicker cleanup when the storm has ended. Snow is plowed on paved roads with the goal of having no more than 3 inches accumulate. Road temperature, air temperature, wind, snowfall rates, time of day, rain, freezing rain or sleet all influence timing and amount of salt applied. On school days, bus routes take priority before all other roads. After the paved roads are plowed, the unpaved roads are plowed. The goal is to have no more than 6 inches accumulate on any unpaved road. Unpaved roads are typically sanded at the end of the snowfall, with the exception of some steep hills, where sand is reapplied as needed. Salt is spread on paved roads and Town properties before the rain falls when the road temperatures are below or near freezing, to prevent roads from becoming icy. Salt is reapplied as needed to prevent freezing. Sand is applied, when possible, on unpaved roads. During a rain storm, when road temperatures are below freezing, unpaved roads freeze instantly and the sand that is applied is quickly frozen over. During a long rain event, we try to sand the unpaved roads 3-4 times a day to allow for some travel. It is impossible to keep unpaved roads passable at all times.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

- Use common sense and refrain from driving during a snowstorm, if possible.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- Put snow tires on your vehicle - all season radials are not the best choice.
- Do not leave your vehicle on any road or property that is maintained by the Town.
- Tune-in to the local weather forecasts and pay attention to changing conditions.