

East Brunswick Township - Snow Event - Q & A

1. Why do the plows block my driveway with snow?

The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets so that the road is open to vehicular traffic. Plowing pushes snow to the side from the middle of the street. This can result in snow piling up in front of driveways. Snowplows typically push snow to the right of the travel lane and the driver has no control over this. Also, the driver cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway as this would leave a pile of snow in the roadway. Residents are advised to wait until the plow has been through their road prior to cleaning their driveway and mailbox area. If drifting or more snow occurs the plows may have to make multiple passes on a road at a later time to keep the road clear. Plow drivers try to prevent excessive blockages at driveways but at times this is not possible. Please remember that the clearing of driveway and sidewalk areas is the responsibility of the resident.

2. I live in a development. Why don't the trucks come to my area right away?

During a "normal" snow event (2in. - 4in.), East Brunswick has snowplows in all areas at the same time main roads are being plowed. East Brunswick has approx. 200 miles of road to clear and each plow driver has an assigned section to clear. Each area of town is unique as is each storm. The time to get to your road varies and is subject to change.

During an extreme event, roads are cleared on a priority basis:

- (1) Major Collector roads
- (2) Minor Collector roads
- (3) Subdivision Streets.
- (4) Cul-de-Sacs

Another major determinant of response time during an extreme event, is the number of workers available and the equipment on hand to complete the task. The township has 48 pieces of equipment available for snow removal and has 40 employees on hand for a major snow event and 5 mechanics to keep equipment operating. Please be aware that, while the snow falls all at once, township road crews clear the 200 miles of roads one mile at a time.

3. How much snow do we have to have before the township starts plowing?

Generally, the township does not send out crews until 2-3 inches have fallen. Brine and Salt trucks, however, may be on collector roads before that.

4. Does the township brine or salt the roads before plowing them?

The township applies brine and salt only to collector roads. Depending on the severity of the storm, roads are sometimes plowed prior to salting. Normally, roads are salted and the salt is left for a time to "work" prior to the road being plowed. The township will brine subdivision streets if time allows prior to a storm but is not guaranteed. Brine is not deposited if there is rain.

5. How difficult is it to plow snow drifts?

Very! Drifting is a factor that makes it extremely difficult to clear roads. Township crews often clear a road only to find that, within hours, drifting has covered it again.

6. What kind of a schedule does the DPW maintain in a snow emergency?

The Roads, Parks, Engineering, Water and Sewer Divisions are on duty and on call during a snow emergency. This status doesn't change until the township roads are clear. Township Divisions combine resources to plow snow during a snow emergency. They will work until all roads have been opened. Employees must rest after the federal and state maximums hours (14 to 16 hours). Employees will have mandatory rest times of 6 hours.

7. What do I do if I have an emergency during a major snow event?

If residents have an emergency during a storm they should contact 911. The Township Department of Emergency Services is always on duty.

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8. What do I do if my road or street doesn't get plowed?

Please call the DPW - Roads Division at 732-390-6884 or email publicworks@eastbrunswick.org. It takes a minimum of 18 to 24 hours or greater to plow the roads throughout the township (200 miles) in a small storm; more severe storms can take much, much longer. If you believe your road has been missed, call.

9. No-parking on any street.

Whenever snow is falling and the accumulation is such that it covers the roadway, no vehicle shall be parked on any street, avenue or highway in the Township of East Brunswick. The parking prohibitions shall remain in effect after the snow has ceased, the streets have been plowed sufficiently, and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of plowing and traffic. Violators are subject to a fine of \$50 and court costs.

10. Depositing snow or ice upon streets prohibited.

No person of any premises on any street shall throw, place or deposit any snow or ice into or upon any street in the township. First offense in 12 month is \$50 (in addition to cost of removal). Additional offenses within 12 months of preceding offense is mandatory court appearance and a fine up to \$2,000.

11. Clearing sidewalks of SNOW and ICE.

Sidewalk shall be cleared of all snow and ice from within twelve (12) hours of daylight. First offense in prior 12 months is \$50 (in addition to cost of removal). Additional offenses within 12 months of preceding offense is mandatory court appearance and a fine up to \$2,000.

- Please remember to remove your vehicle from the street whenever plowable snow is forecast. Vehicles parked along the curbs make it difficult for plow operators to clear the roads.
- Please avoid driving or parking on the roads during or immediately after a heavy snowstorm. The less traffic our plow operators encounter, the more efficiently they can get the roads cleared.
- DO NOT shovel or blow snow into public streets. This not only defeats the purpose of our snow plowing but creates unsafe conditions for all drivers. All shoveled or blown snow should be piled in your yard or in the area between the curb and sidewalk.
- We will not clear driveway openings. During the course of plowing snow off of the roads, driveways may get plowed in (snow deposited in front of the driveway opening by plow trucks). This is unavoidable. To minimize this inconvenience, residents are encouraged to clear the area of the roadway (adjacent to the curb) to the left of their driveway (when looking at the street from their property). Most of the snow, being carried by the plow, will drop off in that area before reaching the driveway. Unfortunately, it is often necessary to plow some roads more than once (especially those roads that were plowed early in the event); consequently, you may have to open up your driveway more than once.

