

Middletown Township Public Works & Engineering

STORM PREP & SNOW REMOVAL

Frequently Asked Questions



SNOWSTORM HOTLINE: 732-615-2090 (OPTION 5)
VISIT WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/SNOW FOR MORE INFORMATION





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STORM PREP AND SNOW REMOVAL GUIDE

The Township of Middletown has over 340 miles of roads that are plowed by the Department of Public Works with assistance of local contractors. Before each storm, the Township begins preparing and planning for snow removal by following a protocol that prioritizes the safety of residents by clearing pathways for emergency vehicles first and general road accessibility second. All Township and contractor plows are fitted with a GPS tracking and mapping system to monitor not only where the plows are located but also to determine the history and frequency of the plowing of every street in town. Below are the most frequently asked questions regarding plowing and snow removal before, during and after a storm.

SNOW REMOVAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How can you help?

We encourage residents to:

- Be patient
- Move your vehicle off the street before a storm.
- Remove all items such as basketball hoops, hockey goals, etc. from the roadway so they do not interfere with plows.
- Refrain from shoveling your sidewalk until the snow has stopped and plowing is complete. As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep fire hydrants clear. Please allow for 3 feet of clearance around fire hydrant and allow access to the closest roadway.

2. When does snow removal begin?

When a storm is predicted, DPW begins pre-storm protocol by monitoring weather forecasts, preparing snow equipment and scheduling crews. Before any snow falls, the treatment of major roadways begins with application of salt brine to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. This pretreatment is important in minimizing snow accumulation and easing plowing efforts. In some cases, with relatively minor snowfalls, pretreatment can help to eliminate the need to plow. As snow begins to coat roadways, salting and sanding continues until plowing can be effective (at approximately 3 inches).

3. Why does my street take so long to get plowed?

Once snow begins to accumulate to about 3 inches, snow removal procedures are initiated. Supervisors oversee the work of Township crews and private contractors in their district. Streets are prioritized as follows:

- Fire and First Aid building access
- Police vehicle access
- Key commuter parking facilities
- Response to Fire, Police, EMS Emergencies, motor vehicle accidents and all reported medical emergencies
- Primary and main commuter roads
- Secondary neighborhood roads
- Dead-end roads and cul-de-sacs

Supervisors direct crews in a logical fashion within each district, prioritizing roads based on vehicular traffic and accessibility. In some cases, smaller streets may be plowed because they are connections to larger streets. In all cases, equipment operators must leave the area they are working on in order to respond to an emergency.

To find your street's designation visit www.middletownnj.org/snow.

4. Why does the plow leave snow at my driveway?

As the plow moves down the street, snow rolls off the edge of the blade, discharging snow into the driveways, curbs, and sidewalks. When clearing your street, crews have no place to push the snow except to the curb creating the unavoidable problem of already cleared sidewalks and driveways becoming covered in snow. To prevent this, residents are encouraged to wait until the snow has stopped and the plowing is complete before shoveling their sidewalk and driveway.

5. How long after a storm do I have to clean my sidewalk?

According to the Township's Snow and Ice Removal Ordinance (Chapter 428, Article III), owners, occupants and/or tenants of premises have 24 hours from the end of the snowfall to clear all sidewalks on the property. Residents who are out of town must arrange for walks to be cleared in their absence. As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep fire hydrants clear. Please allow for 3 feet of clearance around fire hydrant and allow access to the closest roadway. Those who do not clear their sidewalk within this timeframe may be subject to a fine.

6. How do I keep my driveway clear?

During winter operations, snow will be deposited onto driveways. Snowplow drivers cannot lift their plows at every driveway as doing so would cause the snow to be left on the roadway. If you choose to shovel before your street has been cleared, residents are asked to pile the snow on the right-hand side (when facing road) of the driveway. Plow blades will then push snow into the area just before your driveway, leaving a much smaller amount in front.

7. My street cannot be plowed completely because of parked cars. Will you come back and plow again?

As plows continue to make passes through districts during a storm, they will plow the areas in which cars have been removed. However, if roadways are not cleared of cars by the time the plows have finished, they will not come back.

The best way to ensure your street is lowed is to assist in removing all cars from the roadway prior to a storm. Residents are permitted to park their cars at the following municipal parking lots free of charge:

- Middletown Train Station Commuter Lot (off of Middletown-Lincroft Road)
- Tonya Keller Community Center (50 Bray Avenue)
- Ideal Beach Parking Lot (off of Bayside Parkway)
- Municipal Bus Commuter Lots:
 - Bus Lot No. 4: Route 36, between Main Street and Bray Avenue, Port Monmouth
 - Bus Lot No. 5: Route 36 and Thompson Avenue, North Middletown
 - Bus Lot No. 6: Route 36 and Wilson Avenue, Port Monmouth

8. What do crews do if there is not enough snow to plow, but the streets are icy?

Whenever a winter weather event is predicted, the Department of Public Works begins to treat major roadways with an application of salt brine to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. In some cases, with relatively minor snowfall or icy conditions, pretreatment can eliminate the need to plow and alleviate the danger of ice on the roadway.

9. How do I report my street not being plowed?

Please refer to question #3 to determine the priority level of your street. As mentioned, the Township must follow protocol to allow access to emergency vehicles and primary commuter roadways. We ask that those on roads that are not heavily used to be patient, all roads will be plowed in time.

If you would like to report your street not being plowed, you can visit www.middletownnj.org/plowrequest.

10. Is there garbage and recycling collections during snowstorms?

Garbage and recycling collections will continue as scheduled during snowstorms unless the severity of the storm hinders the garbage and recycling trucks from safely and efficiently navigating streets. Collection delays will be advertised on the Township's homepage, www.middletownnj.org. To get collection changes via text or email, residents can download the Recycle Coach app. Visit www.middletownnj.org/recyclecoachapp for more information.

11. Can you pass a snow plow?

Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution in doing so. Remember, a snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see him, but they don't always see you. Vehicles should NEVER pass a plow truck on the right.

12. How many feet should you stay behind a snow plow?

As a general rule, stay at least 200 feet behind a snowplow engaged in snow and ice removal.

13. When are the public parking lots plowed?

The municipal lots listed in question #7 are given priority so that residents who would like to move their vehicles can park safely and free of charge during the storm. All other Township owned parking lots are plowed once the streets are completed.

14. What happens if my property is damaged by plowing?

Residents should note that private driveways and curbs that extend into the roadway that are damaged by snow plowing equipment are not the responsibility of the Township of Middletown and will not be repaired or replaced by the Township. In addition, mailboxes, lawn sprinklers, shrubs, walls, landscaping features, etc. located in the public right-of-way that are damaged as a result of plowing equipment clearing and throwing snow from the roadway are not the responsibility of Middletown Township and shall be repaired or replaced by the property owner.

If you have a question or would like to report damage to your property, please call 732-615-2012.

15. Whom can I call if I have a complaint or request?

Residents can call the Middletown Department of Public Works at 732-615-2090 (Option 5) or visit www.middletownnj.org > Residents > Report A Problem for all complaints or requests.