

SNOW FAQ's

Why do I see plows going past my house with their blade up?

Plows going to or from their assigned route will have their plows up.

Why does it seem like my street is always last?

You may not live on a main road. For the safety of the Fire & Police Departments, we ask that the snow plow drivers all work their assigned routes from the MAIN roads feeding out to the secondary roads and then the dead end streets and cul-de-sacs.

What happens if my trash and recycling gets buried under a snow bank?

Residents are responsible for ensuring their trash and recycling is accessible for the drivers. The Town of Andover and its trash and recycling vendors are not responsible for this.

Why do workers spray liquid onto the roadways before a big storm arrives?

It may seem dangerous to add liquid to a road that might freeze, but the liquid is calcium chloride, which will prevent snow from sticking to the road and prevent frost and black ice.

How can I assist the Town during snow events?

- Clear catch basins near your home allowing rain or melting snow to enter the drainage system rather than flooding the street.
- Consider shoveling around any fire hydrant in your neighborhood to clear it of snow.

Why does the snow plow driver plow the snow back into my driveway or sidewalk?

This is not done intentionally. However for the integrity of the road and the safety of the plow drivers, the plows are not to be lifted while they are plowing their designated route. (We ask the drivers to plow the streets to the edges of the roads for safe passage.) Unfortunately a cleared drive way might be filled in. Residents should try and plow/shovel the snow in the direction of the traffic so that the plows will be pushing it away from the driveway. Please see below for our suggestion on clearing your driveway.



TOWN OF ANDOVER SNOW/ICE MAINTENANCE

WINTER TIPS & FAQ'S



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WINTER TIPS

TREATMENT OF ROADWAYS

The Andover Dept. of Public Works is responsible for plowing and sanding approximately 450 lane miles of roadways. This is achieved through both DPW employees and private contractors.



It may take 3 to 4 hours to complete a typical plow route. Accumulations will occur during this time—we ask that residents please be patient.

The road plowing priorities are as follows:

1. Main roads, public safety facilities and school parking lots.
2. Heavily traveled collector roads.
3. Residential streets, except cul-de-sacs.
4. Cul-de-sac streets.
5. Non-school parking lots.

TRASH AND RECYCLING PICKUPS

- School closures and storms do NOT automatically affect trash and recycling schedules.
- Any changes due to storms will be on the Municipal Services' [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and www.andoverma.gov.
- **Code Red** phone calls will go out if there is a change to the schedule. Otherwise collections are on schedule.
- If a road is too icy for safe travel, the trucks will come back at a later time to pick up as soon as roadways are treated or the next day.

SIDEWALKS

Town crews normally do not begin plowing sidewalks until all road clearing operations are completed. Snow and ice removal on the sidewalks in the downtown Central Business District are the responsibility of the property owners. Parking on sidewalks is strictly prohibited.

OBSTRUCTIONS

It is highly suggested that any obstructions on a resident's private property, close to the roadway, be marked as to be visible by the snow and ice removal crews. Such obstructions include, but are not limited to: mailboxes, lawn ornaments and rocks/boulders. Snow stakes with reflectors are a suggested method of marking.

SNOW REMOVAL

Snow-blowing, plowing, or shoveling snow from any private property into or across the street is both dangerous and illegal.

Vehicles blocking the end of driveways impeding the Town's snow removal operations are subject to being towed.



PRIVATE ROADWAYS

The Town will not conduct snow and ice removal operations on private roadways, unless the Town in certain instances has agreed with the appropriate party to assume these responsibilities.

WINTER PARKING BAN



When authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee, a Declared Snow Emergency Parking Ban will be in effect on all Town streets until the snow emergency has been lifted.

During a snow emergency "parking ban" there shall be **NO PARKING** at any time on any streets except by Fire, Police, Public Works, other Public Safety vehicles and public utility repair vehicles. Also, NO VEHICLE shall be parked or positioned in such a manner as to interfere with the snow removal or sanding operation. Any vehicle in violation of this section shall be ticketed and will be towed at the expense of the owner.

Unsure if it is a Snow Emergency? Please check:

- Cable Access(Comcast-22 or FIOS-45)
- www.andoverma.gov
- <http://andoverma.gov/252/Police>
- APD's [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#)
- Call Highway Dept. 978-623-8802

REDUCE SPEED

Please reduce your speed while driving in snow and ice conditions. Speed is the #1 cause of most accidents during the winter. Passing any vehicle during storm conditions is extremely dangerous – especially passing plows or sanders.

*Sand Barrels are placed around town for your convenience.
Please only take what you need. For your safety please try to do this PRIOR to the arrival of a storm.*