



CITY OF BARBERTON

STREET DEPARTMENT

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STREET SNOW & ICE CONTROL POLICY

This information provides a general overview of our snow and ice program, frequently asked questions, winter tips, and also seeks community support in providing safe streets and sidewalks during snow and ice weather conditions.

The City of Barberton maintains approximately 140 miles of roadway in addition to municipal parking lots and alleys in snow removal and de-icing operations. The City also clears the sidewalks at Lake Anna Park, the State Street and (the south side) Robinson Avenue viaducts to accommodate safe passage for pedestrians.

The City of Barberton has 5-10 vehicles for plowing and/or salting operations divided into 5 routes (Downtown, North, South, East and West). Also available, as conditions warrant, is a dedicated brine truck for pre-treatment applications and a medium duty dump truck with plow & salt capabilities for use in parking lots, cul-de-sacs and alleys along with two pick-up trucks and plows for snow removal in tighter places.

Many factors can determine the City's response to a snow or ice event, some of which may include the following:

- The temperatures before, during and after the storm event.
- The amount of accumulated snow fall.
- The duration and intensity of the storm.
- The road surface temperature.
- The weather forecast for the following days after the initial event.
- Equipment breakdowns and turn-around-time for repairs and maintenance.
- Manpower available in the event of sickness or fatigue monitored for the safety of the motoring public and equipment operators.
- Heavy traffic volume on roads.
- Emergency detours as a result of vehicle accidents or infrastructure issues such as water breaks, trees or poles knocked down etc.

Plan of Operation:

- Pre-treatment utilizing brine with an anti-de-icing agent will be applied to bridges and hills if the forecasted event doesn't include rain transitioning to snow because of the dilution of material applied.
- When less than 2 inches of snow is forecasted it is considered a salting event but when the snow accumulation exceeds 2 inches the plowing operation begins.
- When the snow stops falling and after the main arterials have been cleared the plow trucks move onto secondary collector streets and then into residential areas and eventually alleys.
- City personnel will then begin a clean-up effort to clear the storm inlet grates and catch basin openings, clearing intersections, plowing designated walks and parking lots etc.

Before the Storm (Anti-icing/ Pretreatment):

- Anti-icing is the application of liquid chemicals to the roadway before a winter storm.
- Prevents ice from bonding to the pavement.
- May reduce the amount of time required to restore the roads to bare pavement.
- Can be performed before the storm, during a regular shift.
- May offer cost savings over de-icing (material, personnel, and equipment).
- Material may be washed away if rain comes first, or wasted if forecasts are wrong.

Black or Wet Road policy:

Within several hours after the storm has ended it is the goal of the City to have the road surface exposed particularly on the main arterials and secondary collectors. Residential side streets and cul-de-sacs will only be sufficiently treated to ensure a passable road.

This policy is designed to reduce the harmful effects to the environment of de-icing materials while at the same time balancing public safety with the importance of traveling to a mobile society.

Parking Bans:

While the City of Barberton does enforce parking bans during the winter months based on accumulations of snow exceeding 4 inches, the City requests the residents to please keep vehicles off the street when the warnings are issued and the parking bans are in effect. This will help expedite the plowing operations and prevent damage to private vehicles.

Plow Damage:

On streets that aren't curbed, the City of Barberton is not responsible for damaged lawns, sprinkler heads, downspout laterals, fences, trees and shrubs located within the public right of way. The City will only fix or replace a mailbox if it is physically hit by a plow, **not as a result of heavy snow or slush thrown by the plow**, when clearing the roadway.

Mailboxes and posts damaged by a physical hit by a snowplow will be fixed or replaced with a standard wooden post and black mailbox unless otherwise specified.

Residents are urged to drive stakes with reflectors or reflectorized markers along the edge of lawns.

City operated plow vehicles are prohibited to be hired at the request of Business owners and residents to clear driveways and aprons.

Please Don't:

Please don't plow snow into the street (you or a contractor). This not only increases the City's cost for snow plowing but also increases your liability if an accident occurs.

Please don't throw snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the street.

Please don't place rocks or large objects on the road edge. This may cause plow damage, vehicle damage or operator injury.

Please Do:

In the interest of your neighbor's and your own personal safety, please shovel out nearby fire hydrants.

Please help keep nearby catch basins and storm water inlets clear of snow and ice to help mitigate street flooding during periods of heavy rains and snow melting periods.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Why does there seem to be a delay in plowing snow off the streets when the snow begins to fall?

A. After applying road de-icing materials specifically on bridges and hills, a reaction occurs creating a brine solution and preventing ice bonding to the pavement. The reaction time depends on a number of variables (i.e. traffic flow/volume, temperature etc.). This process helps in the plowing effort as the snow begins to accumulate for a plow event.

Q. Do some streets receive priority during a snow storm?

A. Yes. Major (arterial) roads, hills and bridges are a top priority followed by service to secondary arterial collector roads.

Q. Do sidewalks receive the same priority as streets?

A. No. The roads are a priority for public safety reasons. However, the school district maintains sidewalks within the school zone as well as school parking lots independent of the City road plowing operation.

Q. Why is the snow pushed into my driveway?

A. This situation is unavoidable. The plows remove as much snow as possible to allow for maximum clearance of the roadway and to allow for mail delivery and allow for emergency vehicles to maneuver.

Q. Why does my street always seem like the last one plowed?

A. Traffic volume on main arterials and secondary collector streets are one of the factors determining the order in snow removal operations. Although you may feel that your street is the last to be plowed, our main objective is to make the roads safe for all drivers during snowstorms. Please be patient.

Q. Who determines the closing or delayed opening of schools during a snow storm?

A. The School Administrators.

Q. It's so cold why aren't they salting the roads?

A. Salt's practical working temperature is 15 degrees or above, anything below that it starts to lose its effectiveness.

Winter Tips:

- Pay close attention to weather forecasts and heed warning advice and take necessary safety precautions.
- Freezing rain and wet snow create the most slippery road conditions.
- When snow, sleet or freezing rain has been forecasted please stay off the roads, if possible.
- For storm information concerning school or business closings please tune into local radio and television stations as well as utilizing social media if applicable.
- For information relating to snow parking bans and other important notices, please sign up for community alerts through NIXLE at www.nixle.com or text Barberton to 888777 to register. You can also follow the City of Barberton on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

For further information or suggestions on the snow operations policy for the City of Barberton please call 330-848-6719

The City of Barberton would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter season.