

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

West Lakeland Township Snow Plowing Policy



West Lakeland Township snow plowing goals:

- Our goal is to have all township roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped.
- Our plowing priorities reflect a commitment to insuring that roads are kept open to serve critical facilities and to provide access between state/county highways and our communities.

THE TOWNSHIP DOES NOT ASSURE A BARE ROAD; AND, WILL NOT NORMALLY SALT OR SAND ENTIRE SECTIONS OF ROADWAY. Users of the highway system are reminded to exercise caution and to drive with care. It may not be possible to drive the posted speed limit at all times. *We are not responsible for snow removal on any state/county/private roadways in our township.*

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

1. DISPATCHING OF SNOWPLOWS

- When two (2) or more inches of snow have accumulated, snow and ice control operations will begin. In most cases, plowing operations begin between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.; the exact time depends on the predicted start of the snow storm, intensity of the snowfall and the expected end to the snowfall.
- The township will usually not dispatch snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. Snowplows will not be sent out in situations that are deemed by the Township Road Supervisor to be hazardous.

2. OPERATIONS

- Generally the clearing of roads consist of the following three phases:
 - a) Make roads passable.
Clean one lane in each direction. Generally, a plow and wing are used. Main arteries and school bus routes being plowed first. “Secondary” streets plowed next with cul-de-sacs last.
 - b) Widen the lanes to edge of shoulder.
Sanding may be done at problem locations. ENTIRE ROAD SECTIONS WILL NOT BE SANDED. An appropriate mixture of salt to sand is used.
 - c) Clean up under normal circumstances.
Removal of ice and slush off roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work may occur. Removal of snow from roadways as scheduling/demands allows.
- Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at the same time.
- Be patient. An average 4" snowfall takes 12-18 hours to plow and apply ice control.

3. PERSONAL PROPERTY

- West Lakeland Township will not fix/repair/replace any damaged mailboxes or supports.
- The Township is not liable for damages to sod, fences, vehicles, sprinkler systems and/or other objects placed in the Township right-of-way or on the edge.
- The Township road maintenance personnel may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement/emergency personnel. Our snow plowing contractor will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

4. RESIDENT PLOWING

- Shovel in front of your mailbox. The post office will not deliver mail if they cannot get close enough to reach the mailbox from their vehicle.
- Township residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across township roads [[Minnesota Statute 160.2715 \(A\) \(1\)](#)].
 - a) Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows.
 - b) Piles of snow increase the chance of drifting snow onto the roadway.
 - c) Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

5. INFORMATION

Questions or concerns regarding snow removal and/or road conditions should be directed to the identified West Lakeland Township Road Supervisor.

TIPS AND INFORMATION

Areas are assigned to each snowplow driver. Most drivers stay in that area for the entire winter, allowing him or her to become very familiar with the roadway features in that specific area

Keep parked vehicles off township roads between 1:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Illegally parked vehicles may hinder snowplows from fully clearing streets.

Place reflective plastic curb markers 3" in from the curb or edge of the pavement to show the edge of your lawn or driveway. Remember to plan ahead, as installation is much easier when the ground isn't frozen!

Plowing snow in cul-de-sacs is difficult because of the way the driveways are situated. As much as possible, plow drivers try to plow snow away from driveways and deposit it in open areas.

Remember, during heavy snowfalls, township snowplowing is accomplished in three (3) separate phases:

- The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets.
- Full-width plowing can occur a couple of hours after all streets have received a first pass.
- Final cleanup occurs the next day and includes intersection cleanup, snow and ice control and plowing where vehicles were parked.
- Homeowners are responsible for clearing out their own driveways.

Respect snowplows, both as a pedestrian and as a motorist. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speed and the driver's field of vision is severely limited. Never pass on the right, since plows are pushing snow to the right. Stay 70 feet (four car lengths) from the snowplow so the driver can see you.

Sod damage resulting from township snowplows will not be repaired by the township. The township does not repair sprinklers, fences or rock gardens that are placed in the township right-of-way.

The exact time snow removal begins depends on when the snowfall ends. In most cases, plowing operations begin between 2 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., but the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall and its' intensity. Usually two (2) inches or more of snow accumulation triggers the start of township wide snow removal.

The Township will not fix/repair/replace any damaged mailboxes or supports.

- Mounting mailboxes and supports according to Post Office standards will minimize potential damage to your mailbox. Minimum height of mailbox (not post) needs to be at least **41"** up from the pavement. The face (front) of the mailbox should not extend beyond the back edge of the curb edge or pavement. Also newspaper containers need to be at least **40"** up from the pavement. (Ref. USPS) <https://www.usps.com/manage/know-mailbox-guidelines.htm>

