

SNOW REMOVAL FACTS

The Department of Public Works

is responsible for removing snow from more than 4,121 county roads covering more than 1,000 miles! We have more than 100 snow removal vehicles and 22,100 tons of salt stored in salt barns in various areas throughout the county!

Howard County is divided into a series of routes for snow removal, with a plow truck and an operator assigned to each route. The roads within those routes are prioritized for service into three categories:

- ▶ **Primary**
- ▶ **Secondary**
- ▶ **Residential**



Primary and secondary roads receive the first service, ensuring that public safety vehicles can travel the county.

At the first sign of snow, county highway crews spread de-icing materials on primary, secondary, then residential roads. When the snow has stopped - our crews begin to plow primary, secondary, then residential roads. During a small snowstorm, the entire effort takes about 24 to 36 hours to complete.

The activities of the snow removal trucks can be followed on the Howard County Homepage at www.howardcountymd.gov and by clicking the "Snow Plow Tracker" icon. The "Snow Removal Tracking System" will then give you access to maps of the county. The maps will show the status of the county's roads, whether they have been plowed or treated with de-icing materials.

Private Residential Roads

Private residential roads are not plowed by Howard County.

If you live on a private road in a subdivision that has not yet been "dedicated" to Howard County, the Department of Public Works' Real Estate Services Division can contact the property owners or contractors responsible for the road maintenance. Call the RESD at 410-313-2330.

Maryland State Roads

The Maryland State Highway Administration maintains Maryland state roads and interstate highways - identified by route numbers such as Route 32 or Route 40. For information on state roads within Howard County, call 410-531-5533 or visit their web site www.chart.state.md.us

Want Updates on Snow Removal?

On TV - Gtv Comcast Channel 70

By Phone -

Snow emergency information
24 hours a day - 410-313-2900
(regularly updated recordings)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays

Bureau of Environmental Services

410-313-6444

Bureau of Highways

410-313-7450

Bureau of Utilities

410-313-4900

Via Internet -

County: www.howardcountymd.gov
Click on "Snow Plow Tracker"
State: www.chart.state.md.us

What to Know if You SEE SNOW



*Helpful hints
and reminders
courtesy of:*

Howard County Department of Public Works



3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
www.howardcountymd.gov/publicworks
410-313-4400
publicworks@howardcountymd.gov
James M. Irvin, Director

HELPFUL HINTS



Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or, try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb—about the length of a parking space—ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges for our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.



Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear areas around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding.

After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at 410-313-4900, which is available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

Clearing Your Sidewalks

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h)).

Protect Natural Resources

Never use fertilizer to melt ice and snow—the nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer can harm your local streams, groundwater and the Chesapeake Bay!



DID IT SNOW ON...

"TRASH" DAY?

If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual—before 6 a.m. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

"RECYCLING" DAY?

If it snows on your recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recyclables will be picked up the following week.

To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call 410-313-6444



Please be patient...

During inclement weather, trash and recycling trucks must travel slowly and safely.

Remember, the contractors have until 7 p.m. to pick up your trash and recyclables!

Questions about snow removal?
Send e-mail to:
publicworks@howardcountymd.gov