

## What if I have an emergency and I am snowed in?

Residents should call 9-1-1 for any police- or fire-related emergency. If needed, the City will dispatch a truck to plow and salt ahead of an ambulance, fire truck or police car in order for the emergency equipment to get through to any emergency or to reach a health care facility.

## When is salt applied to city streets?

City crews begin applying salt to the roadways when precipitation, either snow or ice, begins to accumulate and cause unsafe traveling conditions. It can take up to four hours for crews to salt all of the roadways throughout the City.

During blizzard conditions, salting may be delayed until high winds die down. Crews will continue to maintain arterial roadways and plow back drifted areas during the worst conditions.

## What is the purpose of salting the streets and what products are used?

The Department of Public Works applies rock salt (sodium chloride) to City streets during snowfall events. The rock salt is moistened with a solution of either salt brine or calcium chloride to accelerate the melting action on the roadways. Rock salt brine solution is utilized when pavement temperatures are above 27 degrees Fahrenheit. When temperatures drop below that level, liquid calcium chloride is used to enhance the effect of rock salt. Rock salt has proven to be the most efficient and cost-effective method of snow and ice control for smaller amounts of winter precipitation. The amount of salt used on a roadway is determined by analyzing the amount of total precipitation accumulation, ambient and pavement temperatures and traffic conditions. Vehicle traffic breaks down the rock salt into a brine solution, which aids the melting action and minimizes the amount of salt that is applied to the roadway.

### Additional recommendations:

- \* Residents should not park on the street during a winter event. Parked cars are an obstacle to the snow plows. In addition, plowing around parked cars leaves large areas of snow and ice on the roadway.
- \* Be sure your mailbox is installed properly. The front edge of the mailbox or sub-frame must measure eight inches behind the back of the curb.
- \* Shoveling snow into the street is a City code violation. Shovel snow from driveways onto the parkway and not into the street. This will help to avoid creating dangerously slippery conditions for both motorists and pedestrians.
- \* Shovel out fire hydrants that are in or around your property and around meters to aid utility meter readers. Clear sidewalks of snow for the safety of pedestrians and children walking to school. Not keeping sidewalks clear is a City code violation.
- \* Uncover your mailbox for postal delivery. Help your neighbors. For many residents, age or medical conditions make it difficult to shovel snow without risking health.

For more detailed information on any of Naperville's snow removal programs, call the Department of Public Works at (630) 420-6095 or visit the City's website at [www.naperville.il.us/snowremoval.aspx](http://www.naperville.il.us/snowremoval.aspx).

10/11 DPW

# Winter Operations



## 2011/2012

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## Naperville

### Department of Public Works

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(630) 420-6095

[www.naperville.il.us](http://www.naperville.il.us)



**The primary goal of the City's snow and ice control program is to provide the motoring public with a safe roadway system, regardless of winter weather conditions or time of day.**

Naperville's Department of Public Works (DPW) is committed to keeping motorists safe on the roadways throughout this winter season.

The City of Naperville expects to spend more than \$3 million this winter to keep City streets safe and hazard-free. To serve Naperville residents, City crews and contractors work diligently to clear streets as quickly as possible. During heavy snowfalls, City crews concentrate on keeping main arterial roadways clear for traffic and emergency vehicles.

Several of the most often asked questions about the City's snow and ice control procedures are answered below:

**When do City crews begin plowing?**

DPW begins plowing whenever two inches of snow have accumulated on paved surfaces and snow is still falling. It is the City's goal to clear all streets within 15 hours after the snowfall has ceased. It is important to remember that heavy, wet snows may take longer to clear.

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**What determines which streets are plowed first?**

The City has established a priority plowing system for its 540 centerline miles of roadway (1,495 lane miles) so that main traffic routes and thoroughfares are plowed first. Should the City receive more than two inches of snow, DPW will then begin operations on residential

side streets and cul-de-sacs. While City crews make every effort to clear arterial roadways before rush hour begins, at times a storm will begin at the start of rush hour, which can cause delays for both crews and commuters.

**Naperville's streets are divided into these levels of priority:**

- ✧ **Arterials** are plowed first. They are the main traffic routes and thoroughfares which carry large volumes of traffic (e.g. Washington St., Naper Blvd., Diehl Rd. and 95th St.).
- ✧ **Priority One** streets and minor collectors are plowed second. These are main streets through subdivisions, roads that link arterials and streets with schools located on them when school is in session.
- ✧ **Priority Two** streets are plowed after two inches of snowfall. These consist of residential streets, side streets and cul-de-sacs with steep inclines and/or sharp curves.
- ✧ **Priority Three** streets may be salted and plowed along with Priority Two streets. Priority Three streets are comprised of stub ends, cul-de-sacs, eyelashes and alleys. The priorities are derived from the City's Master Thoroughfare Plan and are based on traffic volume, posted speed limits and potential safety concerns.

**Why are Priority Three streets finished near the end of a winter snow event?**

Priority Three streets are the most time-consuming streets to plow and have the lowest volume of traffic. On average, it takes 35 minutes to clear a cul-de-sac of snow, which is eight times longer per square yard of pavement than it takes to plow a through street. Cul-de-sacs are also more difficult to clear because of the limited space in the parkway to dump snow without burying driveways, mailboxes, streetlights or fire hydrants. The number of

cul-de-sacs, coupled with the amount of alleys and stub streets in Naperville, has added to the time it takes to plow and salt streets throughout the City. Today, there are approximately 1,200 cul-de-sacs in Naperville.

**Besides City streets, what other areas is the City responsible for clearing?**

The City is responsible for clearing snow from all the municipal parking lots, the Rt. 59 Metra train station parking lot north of the tracks and the areas surrounding the downtown Naperville train station. The City also clears sidewalks in the Central Business District.

**Who is responsible for clearing state and regional roadways?**

- ✧ The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) clears state roads such as Ogden Ave. (Route 34) and Illinois Rt. 59.
- ✧ DuPage County maintenance crews plow 75th St., Plainfield/Naperville Rd. north of 87th St. to 75th St., Chicago Ave. east of Charles Ave., Naper Blvd. north of Ogden Ave. and Mill St. north of Ogden Ave.
- ✧ Will County maintains Plainfield/Naperville Rd. south of 87th St. and 111th St. east of Illinois Rt. 59.
- ✧ Township agencies maintain Royal Porthcawl Dr. in Wheatland Township, Green Acres Dr. in Naperville Township and Wehrli-College Rd. north of 75th St. in Lisle, to name a few.

**What areas are property owners responsible for clearing?**

Property owners are responsible for plowing commercial parking lots, driveways and public sidewalks adjoining their homes and businesses.