

# Town of Germantown Snowplowing Policy and Procedures

## Mission Statement:

The ability to react promptly and decisively to varying winter weather conditions with regards to snow removal and ice control on Town roads is recognized to be an important and necessary function of government, for the safety and well-being of its residents and visitors. It is therefore deemed to be prudent that standard policies and procedures be endorsed as to the desirable level of snow removal and ice control service to be provided in the Town of Germantown.

## Policy Statement:

Due to the environmental and economic concerns, it is not the Town's policy to provide "bare pavement" driving conditions at all times and at all locations during the winter season. Town wide application of salt will not generally be done except in the case of an ice storm or similar extreme condition. Salt application will be minimal, as determined by the Director of Public Works or designee. Although hazardous areas such as hills, curves, controlled intersections and major road will be given priority attention to minimize slippery road conditions, it is the responsibility of motor vehicle operators to use care and common sense while driving on Town roads when snow and ice conditions exist.

## Factor for Consideration:

Since each storm even it different the Director of Public Works or designee will consider the following variables when deciding when and how much to plow:

- Road temperatures
- Wind conditions
- Volume of snow already on the ground
- Additional snow/ice forecasted
- Volume of traffic and safety of the traveling public
- Day of week and time of day
- Consistency of the snow that is falling

## Priority List of Roads:

The Town of Germantown is responsible for over 140 lane miles of snow removal, including arterials, secondary streets, parking lots and cul-de-sacs. The town has classified roads based on function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those roads classified as Priority #1 will be plowed first. These are high volume routs that connect major sections of the Town and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

### Priority #1 Roads

15 <sup>th</sup> north and south	32 <sup>nd</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup>	37 <sup>th</sup>
17 <sup>th</sup> north of the river and in town center	38 <sup>th</sup>
19 <sup>th</sup> north and south	40 <sup>th</sup>
20 <sup>th</sup>	41 <sup>st</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>

30<sup>TH</sup>

Priority #2 Roads

All town roads NOT in subdivisions

Priority #3 Roads

Roads within subdivisions

**Schedule:**

In most cases the following order will be used when plowing subdivisions. This could change depending on the time of day or weather conditions.

Truck 1

The Timbers at Shipwreck Bay  
Sandstone  
High Ridge  
Glacier Point  
Ridgewater Drive  
Evergreen Estates  
3 Rivers  
Whitetail Ridge Estates

Truck 2

Castle Rock Estates  
Whistling Wings  
May's Point  
Lucy Lane  
Park Place  
Copper Point

Trucks 1 and 2 (After individual routes)

Half Moon Bay  
O'Dell's Bay  
Bayview Estates  
Sandy Shores  
Castle Rock Gardens  
Stone Gate Lake

Due to the difficult nature of plowing cul-de-sacs the main roads of subdivisions may be plowed at an earlier time than the cul-de-sacs.

**Materials Used:**

The Town uses straight salt and a salt/sand mixture. The use of straight salt vs salt/sand mixture is determined by location and weather conditions.

**Procedure:**

Directions and decisions on when to plow, how much to plow, and how many employees are to be utilized is the responsibility of the Director of Public Works or designee. In most cases, a crew will consist of two Town of Germantown employees.

The following are typical procedures the Department of Public Works will follow in storm events:

Snowfalls of Less Than 1”

Plowing/salting/sanding is done on an as-need basis.

Snowfalls Greater Than 1”

As a general rule, one (1) or more inches of snow will be plowed. A full-scale plowing operation will involve a minimum of two (2) Town of Germantown employees to complete priorities one and two. If a snow storm begins in the late afternoon or early evening, the main streets will be kept open and Town-wide plowing operations will be started at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or designee.

**Driveways:**

It is impossible to prevent snow from being pushed into driveways when the roads are plowed. In order to minimize this inconvenience to homeowners after a snowfall, it is intended that Town crews complete plowing a given area within a reasonable time, rather than make periodic passes with the plow and each time deposit additional snow in driveways, unless this procedure is required to keep the roads open.

**Mailboxes:**

In order to avoid damage to roadside mailboxes, snowplow trucks must keep a safe distance away. It is expected that property owners will have to do some snow removal to provide easy access to the mailbox by letter carriers. Mailboxes accidentally damaged by being struck with the plow will be repaired or replaced by the Department of Public Works with a standardized mailbox set forth by the Town. Mailboxes damaged by snow being thrown by the plows is the responsibility of the mailbox owner.

**Driveway or Parking Lot Plowing:**

State Statute 346.94 (5) states: “No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof.” This includes plowing from your driveway or parking lot across roads causing mounds or ridges of snow. Violators will be reported to the Sheriff’s Department for enforcement of the statute which could result in a \$50 fine.

**Fast Facts:**

The Town of Germantown has a total of:

- 140 lane miles of roadway to plow
- 45 Cul-de-sacs and 10 dead ends
- 2 parking lot areas (At the Town Hall and Public Works Buildings)
- During an average snowfall of approximately 3"-5" a crew of 3 operators finish all roads in 7-9 hours