

Town of Wilton N.H

Department of Public Works

Winter Road Maintenance Policy

Governing Laws RSA 231:92-a, RSA 507-B:2b

The Winter Road Maintenance Policy is intended to be used as a reference that the Department of Public Works will follow to maintain the Town of Wilton's roadways, sidewalks and parking lots during winter storm events. This Policy shall not be construed as a bare and/or dry pavement, or black road policy. The guidelines provided in this Policy may be modified by the Director of Public Works or his/her designee as necessary to address the many variables that may be experienced during a winter storm event and for the purpose of meeting the objectives and level of service that are endeavored to be provided by the town.

GENERAL POLICY: Winter weather events that pass through the Town of Wilton are often very complex as a result of the changes in elevation and topography that the town has between its borders. There are numerous variables that determine the Department of Public Works approach and methods for winter maintenance operations including but not limited to types and rates of precipitation that are experienced during each storm event, the surface temperatures of pavement and gravel roads, physical roadway condition, ambient air temperatures, time of day or night and day of the week that the storm events occur. It shall be the intent of the Town to provide timely, cost effective and environmentally responsible winter roadway maintenance operation for the safety of the Town residents and other vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Level of Service: The goal of the town is to provide reasonably safe travel conditions for vehicles, equipment and pedestrians on Town maintained roads and parking lots. Reasonably safe travel conditions are not meant to imply that the roads will be completely free of snow, slush, ice or a combination of the three. It shall be the responsibility of motorists and/or pedestrians to operate vehicles or

equipment, or to travel on Town maintained roads and parking lots in a manner that is safe for the conditions that are present during winter storms.

The DPW Director or his/her designee will perform roadway inspection during and after winter storm events. Department of Public Works uses the following (but not limited to) storm types and/or observable roadway surface conditions as the basis to help determine when winter maintenance is required:

1. **Freezing Rain** – Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am-3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW Director or his/her designee during non-business hours.
2. **Black Ice** - Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am-3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW Director or his/her designee during non-business hours.
3. **Ice Storm** – Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW Director or his/her designee during non-business hours.
4. **4- inches of snow** – Immediate response during normal business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW director or his/her designee during non-business hours.
5. **3-inches of snow and storm forecasted to intensify** – Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW director or his/her designee during non-business hours.
6. **Downed Trees or limbs (not involving any utility wires or utility poles)-** Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response shall be approximately 1 hour after notification by DPW director or his/her designee during non-business hours.

7. **Spotty Icing Conditions**- Immediate response during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) Response may be delayed during non-business hours and shall be determined by DPW director or his/her designee, based on observed icing conditions.
8. **Light Snow** – Response may be delayed during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) depending on the observed roadway conditions. Response may be delayed during non-business hours, and shall be determined by DPW Director or his/her designee based on observed roadway conditions.
9. **Blowing Snow** - Response may be delayed during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) depending on observed roadway conditions. Response time may be delayed during non-business hours, and shall be determined by DPW Director or his/her designee depending on observed road conditions.
10. **3 inches of snow or less, and the storm is forecasted to end or has ended**- Response may be delayed during normal DPW business hours (7:00 am through 3:30 pm Monday through Friday) based on the observed roadway conditions Response may be delayed during non-business hours, and shall be determined by DPW Director or his/her designee based on the observed roadway conditions.

The following notification times and actual start times for Wilton DPW employees will be used as a basis for roadway maintenance procedures for the above storm types:

- A. **School Days** – Employee notification shall occur between 3:30 am and 4:00 am
- B. **Non-School Weekdays** -Employee notification shall occur between 4:00 am and 4:30 am
- C. **Saturdays** – Employee notification shall occur between 5:00 am and 5:30 am
- D. **Sundays & Holidays** – Employee notification shall occur between 5:30 am and 6:00 am

The times may be modified by DPW Director or his/her designee as necessary to address specific winter roadway condition needs.

Equipment, Labor and Materials: Wilton DPW has six full time employees and one part time on call employee. All employees have and continue training on winter road maintenance. The equipment and labor force is subject to change without notice. Wilton DPW has Two 6-wheel dump trucks- with plow sand wings, Two 10-wheel dump truck with plow and wings, One 1-ton truck with plow and sander sander, one F350 pickup truck with plow and one sidewalk tractor with plow and snowblower and sander. For backup equipment due to breakdowns, DPW has one Road Grader with plow and wing, one loader with a straight or box plow and one F350 truck with plow.

The DPW uses rock salt (sodium chloride), sand (abrasive), or a combination thereof to assist with the winter maintenance of all paved surfaces, and sand (abrasive) to assist with winter maintenance on all gravel roads and gravel parking lots. The frequency and quantity of mentioned materials are applied during a winter storm event and their effectiveness are in general a function of surface and ambient air temperatures, storm type, surface type, roadway and parking lot physical conditions.

The application of rock salt in general is applied to paved surfaces for the purpose of breaking the bond that precipitation forms with paved surfaces during a winter storm event and when the ambient air temperatures is 20 degrees Fahrenheit or above. Rock salt becomes less effective when the ambient air temperatures drop below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and is not effective below 10 degrees Fahrenheit. When the ambient air temperatures are between 20 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit a salt sand mix (the exact mix will vary) will be applied. When the ambient air temperatures drop below 10 degrees Fahrenheit sand will be applied. The DPW Director or his/her designee will determine the materials to be applied for each winter storm event, the duration by which materials will be applied throughout each winter storm event cleanup. The DPW Director or his/her designee may modify the materials that are applied during a storm event due to changing storm, temperatures, and paved and gravel surface conditions.

**NH Road Salt Application Rates for Deicing Roads
(Pounds per Lane Mile)**

Pavement Temp. (°F) and Trend (↑↓)	Weather Condition	Maintenance Actions	Application Rate (lbs/per lane mile)			
			Salt Prewet/ Pretreated with salt brine	Salt Prewet/ Pretreated with other blends	Dry salt	Winter sand
>30 ↑	Snow	Plow, treat intersections only	150	125	150	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	175	150	200	Not recommended
30 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	175	150	200	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	200	175	225	Not recommended
25 - 30 ↑	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	200	175	225	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	225	200	225-275	Not recommended
25 - 30 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	250	200	275	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	275	250	275-300	450
20 - 25 ↑	Snow or frz. Rain	Plow and Apply chemical	275	275	275-300	450 for frz. Rain
20 - 25 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	275	250	300-325	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	300	275	325-400	450
15 - 20 ↑	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	300	275	325	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	300-375	275-350	325-400	450
15 - 20 ↓	Snow or Frz. Rain	Plow and apply chemical	325	300	350	450 for frz. Rain
0 to 15 ↑↓	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand hazardous areas	Not recommended	300-350	Not recommended	600 and spot-treat as needed
< 0	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand hazardous areas	Not recommended	350-500	Not recommended	600 and spot-treat as needed

Table 19. Application Rates for Deicing

These rates are based on road application guidelines (Mn Snow & Ice Control Field Handbook, Manual 2005-1). Develop your own application rates by adjusting your current rates incrementally downward toward these guidelines. Where temperature categories overlap, select the rate most applicable to your situation.

Plow Routes: The Town of Wilton has approximately 41 miles of paved road, 11 miles of gravel roads; only approximately 7 miles of the gravel roads are winter maintained. The Town also has approximately 5.5 miles N.H State Dot summer Maintenance paved roads (Town of Wilton does winter maintenance). The approximately 53.5 miles of road is broken down to 6 plow routes. All the plow routes have at least 1 gravel road, with the exception of the downtown plow route. Each plow route from start to finish requires approximately 2.5 – 3.5 hours depending on the nature of storm event, storm intensity, and road conditions encountered during each storm event. Plow routes are done in an order that is most time efficient. Plow routes may change without notice due to breakdowns or short man power. The Town does not plow class VI, summer maintained only, or private roads.

Snow Storage

The Main St. plow route uses storage spots during the storm.

Corner of Fire Dpt. Parking lot

Train station (Annual written permission required)

Parking lot by the Dummy light

Back corner of Police Station

Parking area along the retaining wall (stone wall)

Sidewalks

Sidewalks will be plowed or snow blown when an operator become available or within 10 hours of storm ending.

Items within the Town's right-of-way: The Town of Wilton shall not be responsible for damage to private property items including but not limited to planters, stone walls, hedges, mailboxes or any landscape plantings that are placed within the Town's right-of-way per **RSA 236:15**. The Town is not responsible for damage to private property including but not limited to vehicles, equipment and mailboxes that are in the Town's right-of-way, and that is the result of sand, stone,

pieces of pavement, snow or slush that are cast from the Public Works Department's vehicles or equipment within the Town's right-of-way.

The Town right-of-way often extends beyond the surface of the roads.

The Town of Wilton is responsible to repair damage to private property that is located outside the Town's right-of-way, and come in direct contact with winter maintenance vehicles or equipment.

Winter Maintenance Clean Up

The Director of Public Works or his/her designee will determine an appropriate schedule for conducting winter maintenance clean up within 48 hours of no snow fall. Snow removal will be performed by Wilton D.P.W.

Re-Adopted on November 20, 2023 by the Wilton Select Board