



2024 Orangetown

Winter Safety Gram

Highway Department
119 Route 303, Orangeburg, NY 10962
(845) 359-6500
(845) 359-6062
www.orangetown.com
highwaydept@orangetown.com

TO: POSTAL PATRON

James J. Dean
Superintendent of Highways

Town Board

Supervisor
Teresa M. Kenny

Council

Jerry Bottari
Brian Donohue
Dan Sullivan
Paul Valentine

Be Part of Our Team - Be Cautious and Drive Carefully!

Orangetown Highway Department Snow & Ice Control Fleet



Photograph by JJ Donnelly

Three-Time Recipient of the National American Public Works Association “Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award”

Winter Safety Gram

Before the Snow Falls

As early as September, the Orangetown Highway Department begins preparing for the winter months ahead by providing operator training, reviewing snow removal routes and servicing equipment. Preparation and servicing of equipment for the upcoming winter continues through November while Highway Department crews expedite the pickup of loose leaves from the residential areas of the Town. November is an extremely critical time, as the equipment used for snow removal operations is used for the removal of loose leaves, and our focus can change at very short notice.

The Highway Department's salt storage facility is stockpiled with 3,000 tons of salt while 7,500 gallons of enviro-brine is contained in two storage tanks and 20,000 gallons of liquid salt brine is contained in four storage tanks. In order to be properly prepared for inclement weather during the snow season, the Highway Department continually monitors daily weather conditions, via satellite, and receives daily weather reports from local weather sources and the National Weather Service.

Monitoring weather reports assists the Highway Department utilize the state-of-the-art process of applying a salt brine to pre-wet the road surface in anticipation of a snow storm. This salt brine is the mixture of water with granular sodium chloride. Salt brine allows us to be proactive as it jump-starts the melting process, thus speeding up the melting action.

When the Snowfall Starts

An important step in dealing with snowfall is street salting. Top priority is given to the Town's main roads. Those roads are routes that the Town has found to have the heaviest year-round traffic and usually are major arteries running north/south or east/west that have double yellow centerlines.

The snow removal process starts when frozen precipitation begins falling. Operations initiate with the application of rock salt and liquid brine to the roads and continue until the streets are clear or material application is no longer effective due to the depth of the snow.

As the Snowfall Continues

When two or three inches of snow have accumulated and more is expected, snow is more economically removed by plowing rather than salting. All public roads, main thoroughfares and residential streets will be plowed by Highway Department personnel. Our first responsibility is to open the main roads. These arterials are the key to providing safe access for emergency vehicles as well as maintaining the steady flow of traffic since most residents live within a few blocks of such a route. The plows then continue to all streets on the route to "open up" each one in sequence. If the storm continues in intensity, the trucks remain in that same pattern until the storm abates. At that time, the trucks begin to "widen out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to the curb line and clearing intersections.

Remember, trained crews work around the clock during these storms to keep the roads open and passable. If you wish to report a hazardous condition, call the Highway Department at 359-6500. If there is a medical emergency, call the dial 911 or contact the Orangetown Police Department at 359-3700.

Register Free for NY-ALERT!

New York State's Local, County, Regional and Statewide All-Hazards Alert and Notification System

Visit the NY-Alert website at www.nyalert.gov

After the Storm is Over

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds re-deposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually an application of salt is applied to all streets so the riding surface remains drivable. If the accumulation is particularly heavy, the Town removes the snow from the business districts in Pearl River, Blauvelt, Tappan, South Nyack and Sparkill. Crews are also dispatched to clear catch basins so that melting snow can run off.

You may wish to avoid a potential problem and also be of assistance to your neighbors by cleaning off a catch basin or shoveling out a nearby fire hydrant. Salt barrels are placed at selected hills and intersections are refilled after every storm. As soon as practicable after the storms, thirty (30) bus shelters and thirty (30) miles of safety sidewalks are treated or plowed to allow for pedestrian traffic. **Please avoid creating a hazard by discarding snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway. Do not block sidewalks.** For those residents who have a snow plowing contractor, advise them not to plow your snow into the road or onto sidewalks opposite your driveway.

Parking and Travel Regulations

There is *no overnight parking in Orangetown from November 15th through April 15th* of each year. Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roads are subject to towing at the owner's expense as well as being ticketed by the Police Department.

The Town has adopted a "Snow Emergency" policy. This law requires that, at times when snow accumulations reach more than 2 inches, no vehicles may be parked on any street designated as a "Snow Emergency Route" no matter what time of day or night.

As soon as you are aware that bad weather is on the way, make sure your vehicle is off the street. This protects your car from being splashed with slush, becoming plowed in, or being hit by passing vehicles. Best of all, the snowplow has space to plow the snow.

Questions & Answers

1. *Why does the Highway Department provide snow and ice control?*

To keep roadways open and safe for emergency response by the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and to provide access to home, work, school and mobility to all Orangetown residents.

2. *Why does the Highway Department have to plow from curb to curb?*

To keep the streets clean of snow and ice, and to allow melting snow to reach the catch basins.

3. *Why should I not throw snow back into the street?*

Snow thrown back onto the roadway may freeze causing hazardous road conditions. You may cause injury to family, friends or neighbors.

4. *I cannot shovel my driveway because I am elderly or disabled, what should I do?*

Make arrangements with a family member, friend, and neighbor or hire a contractor to do this for you.

5. *My car was towed, where is it?*

Call the Orangetown Police Department at 359-3700.

6. *Who can I call if I have a question regarding the Town's snow removal service?*

Call the Orangetown Highway Department 359-6500

7. *I'd like to make a suggestion on snow removal: Where should I send it?*

Send suggestions to the Orangetown Highway Department, 119 Route 303, Orangeburg, New York or FAX to 359-6062 or Email – highwaydept@orangetown.com

EMERGENCIES-DIAL 911

Helping Us Help You

Be Prepared, Be Aware and Be Patient

Before it snows, remember last year's problems and try to tackle them in advance. Have your tools and supplies handy! If you provide your own snow removal, make sure shovels, snow blowers, calcium chloride and rock salt are ready before the season begins. If you hire someone to do your snow removal, make those arrangements early. It can be difficult to find someone in the middle of a storm.

Make arrangements to have adequate food supplies on hand. Charge your "Smart Devices." Keep flashlights, a battery powered radio and emergency equipment on hand in case of disruption in the power supply.

Area news media will announce approaching storms and will disseminate information on school closings and meeting cancellations. They will also note road closings or re-routings.

Please do not go out during or immediately after a snowstorm unless it is truly necessary. Crews have many hours of hard work to complete their snow clearing operations. Less traffic on the road means that we will be able to clear the roads more quickly and completely. Under the best of conditions, it will take us at least 8 hours from the time it stops snowing completely, to complete our snow removal operations.

Remember, whether it is your driveway for which you are responsible or the 210 miles of roads for which we are responsible, snow removal is an arduous and time-consuming task. Please understand that the Highway Department cannot shovel ridges or windrows from your driveway entrance, nor can we plow private property.

Tips & Suggestions

- When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway, throw it to the right of your driveway as you face the street or "downstream". **Throwing or plowing snow in the road is a violation of NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and can create a patch of snow and ice that freezes over and causes a hazardous condition.** Besides, it will only be re-deposited when the plow comes around again.
- If at all possible, finish clearing your driveway entrance after the final widening pass has been completed.
- *Helpful Hint: Leave a strip of snow at the edge of your driveway, this will block some of the snow from entering your driveway when the plow widens the roadway.* The final widening pass is usually completed approximately 8 to 10 hours after the snow stops completely. This, of course, depends on the severity of the storm.
- Plan alternate ways and extra time to travel to main routes and to your place of employment.
- Remember! Slow down, brake slowly and allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- During times of reduced visibility, watch for pedestrians, bicycles and disabled vehicles.
- Maintain your vehicle properly. Equip your car with snow tires or chains and keep your windshield, headlights and taillights clean at all times.

Dear Orangetown Resident:

You, the Orangetown taxpayer and resident, are a very important part to a successful snow and ice control campaign. Your understanding and cooperation are an integral part of our plan. To help inform you regarding our methods and give you a few helpful hints, we have compiled this Winter Safety Gram.

As you see from the picture of your Highway Department personnel, providing safe roads for all Orangetown residents requires a team effort. We have a great team made up of men and women that are ready, willing and able to work long and hard to combat old man winter.

The Highway Department's efforts and success would not be possible without the support of the Orangetown Town Board. Again, this year the Town Board has provided the funds necessary to purchase and maintain the equipment and materials necessary to get the job done. They should be congratulated for their foresight and their interest in public safety.

Again, I would like to stress this is a **team** effort and I would like to thank all of the Highway Department employees, the Town Board, the Police Department, the Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Corps, the Parks Department, the Sewer Department and all of the residents of the community for working together to provide a safe and healthy environment in the Town of Orangetown.

JIM DEAN



Our Mission.....The Orangetown Highway Department is dedicated to providing safe, courteous, dependable and economical service, wherever and whenever possible for all our residents.

Customer Satisfaction Through Responsible Management Of Resources

The Town of Orangetown Highway System consists of 152 miles of road, servicing over 11,800 residential units and continues to grow with the dedication of new subdivision streets every year. Since 2015, we have added 4 streets, totaling .60 miles, servicing 32 residential units. Presently, we have .3 miles of subdivision roads with 21 residential units in various stages of completion.

Additional plans for developing roads and residential units are being presented to the Planning Board on a regular basis as well as single lot and minor subdivisions on existing roads that add approximately 10 service units a year. The additional service units are important because they require green waste and recycling services.

Our ten-year equipment replacement program requires an investment in Highway and Green Waste removal equipment. Although this is a substantial investment, if we fail to meet our goal for equipment replacement, we risk falling behind with regular scheduled services, incurring more repair costs and reducing the effective and proper utilization of our workforce. Adhering to the equipment replacement program minimizes the overall financial impact on our taxpayers. The task of maintaining the level of service you require is greatly affected by the availability of equipment used to perform these services.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. Rest assured we will continue to strive to meet the needs of our customers.

Clean Streets = Clean Streams

Storm Drains provide routes for rain water and snow melt to flow away from our streets and prevent flooding and potential ice conditions. Help us keep our storm drain clean. Do not place brush, leaves or snow on the road pavement as these materials will add pollution to our waters, and block drains and cause flooding and ice conditions.

Public Service Numbers

Area Utility Companies

Cablevision (Optimum) Rockland	624-8200
Orange and Rockland	352-6000
Veolia Water	623-1500
Verizon	888-553-1555

Town Government

Town Hall	359-5100
Highway Department	359-6500
Parks Department	359-6503
Police Department	359-3700
Sewer Department	359-6502
Solid Waste Information	359-6988

County Government Offices

Main Offices	638-5000
Board of Elections	638-5172
County Clerk's Office	638-5070
Hazardous Waste	364-2444
Health Department	364-2000
Highway Department	638-5060
Rockland Green (Solid Waste Mgmt.)	753-2200



To Report An Illicit Discharge Please Call the
“Illicit Discharge Hotline”
845-359-6502

An illicit discharge is an unlawful act of disposing, dumping, spilling, emitting, or discharging any substance other than stormwater into the storm drain system; such as catch basins, yard inlet, or lakes and streams.