

## SPECIAL WINTER EDITION

### AVOIDING THE SECOND SHOVELING DILEMMA

Municipal officials in every part of the country get the same complaints during every major snow storm. Public Works trucks deposit heaping piles of snow right back in front of the driveway or mailbox area the you just cleared. It's frustrating. It's maddening. We get it.

But, unfortunately, we are not aware of any community (anywhere!) that has been able to completely avoid this challenge.

When snowfall hits our area, how can you prevent that municipal snow plow from ruining the work you just did clearing out your driveway access to the street?

First, please recognize that our Borough Public Works Crew - out operating plows in seriously unfavorable conditions - are sensitive to the work residents do to dig out. They do not place snow in driveways on purpose.

Second, understand that plows are often just pushing the white stuff. Typically, snow is loaded on the front of the plow and it just continually comes off - driver's side to passenger's side - or left to right towards the curb line. Also, the driver cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway as this would leave piles of snow in the roadway.

The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets both to provide enough room for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to operate and so that the road is open to safe vehicular traffic. Plow trucks usually makes one pass to initially open up the road and then they come back to widen the road and then address the shoulders for future snow accumulation.

With long duration storms (...remember the storm from early February 2021!?) or with windy conditions causing drifting, Public Works Crews may have to make multiple passes on a street to open it up and keep it clear. If possible, plow drivers will try to prevent excessive blockages at driveways... but oftentimes this is not possible.

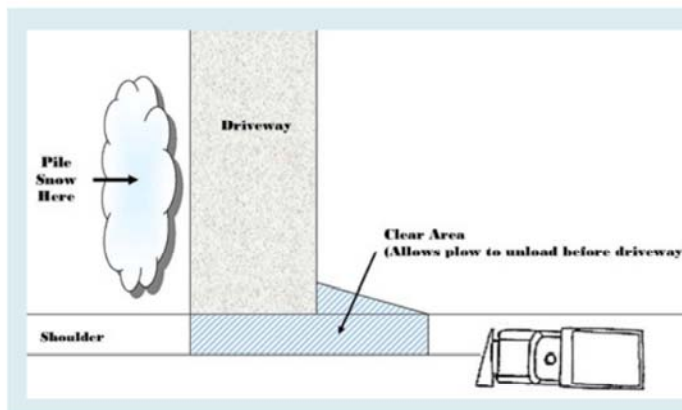


One strategy for property owners is to wait to finish your snow clearing until the Borough finishes our work. At the very least, consider waiting to clear the end of your driveway until after the full width of your street has been plowed so you only have to shovel once. This way you'll avoid the dilemma of the "second shovel." For a variety of reason, however, lots of folks are not able to wait out the snow (and subsequent municipal plowing).

Another strategy is to make room for the snow that would otherwise end up in your driveway. First, you need to figure out the direction that the snow plow will approach your property. For most folks, if you are standing in the middle of the road facing your home, the plow will approach from the right. With this information— again, looking at your house to the right side of your driveway, or the direction that the plow approaches your property - you can shovel out a space that would allow the plow to naturally deposit the snow from the blade in that area before it goes past your driveway.

Rule of thumb is to clear a space to the side of your driveway that's 10 feet long and at least a car width wide. That way, when the plow comes down the street, it pushes most of the snow into that area and not into your driveway.

Winter weather brings its own special set of challenges and frustrations. Shoveling out from a major snow storm is certainly among the biggest of those frustrations. Whether you decide to wait out the plowing efforts or make room for the plows' snowy gift, we hope everyone will stay safe during the winter season.



If you just can't wait to clear your driveway until the plow trucks have come through your neighborhood, this graphic shows how to properly clear/remove the snow from your driveway to give the snow plow a place to 'empty' before reaching your driveway.