

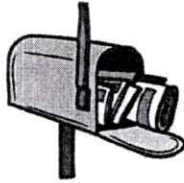
Community Corner

What you need to know

Mailbox Placement

Height of mailbox placement

Your mailbox should be 41 inches to 45 inches from the road surface.



Why: The snow plow wing is 40 inches, having a mailbox at 42 inches is a risky minimum, and does not consider build-up of snow, ice or gravel

How far off the road should a mailbox be placed?

Your mailbox should be placed 6 inches to 8 inches back from the curb or shoulder.



Why: Snowplows have a 15-foot wide pass. NYS Traffic Law prohibits the snowplow from crossing the centerline. Hence anything 15 feet from the centerline will get hit.

Mailbox installation.

A 4" x 4" wood support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, buried no more than 24" deep.



Why: This is recommended by the Federal Highway Administration.

Why all these standards?



Safety! The best mailbox supports must be stable but bend or fall away if hit.



NYSLTAP -

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Transportation | Local Technical Assistance Program



How to install a

Community Corner

WHAT IS THE RIGHT OF WAY ON MY ROAD OR STREET?

The right-of-way (ROW) is the space including the road or street and land on either side of a road that is typically used for storm drainage & a safe recovery area for vehicles that leave the road surface.



HOW BIG IS THE ROW?

- If there is a deed or other paperwork filed with the County or Town Clerk, that is the right-of-way (ROW), otherwise...
- The ROW is the area that the highway department maintains on roads & streets used by the public (and has been maintained for at least ten years)

WHY IS THE ROW ON MY PROPERTY?

The NYS Legislature established roads by use & streets by prescription to account for existing public highways in towns and villages in 1797. While you may own to the centerline, the law was written to ensure all of the public has rights to travel on public roads.



WHO OWNS THE ROW?

The landowner still owns the land on these user roads. The highway or street department just has a right (and duty) to maintain the road or street in a safe and efficient manner. The landowner still maintains some rights (such as getting the wood from any trees removed for safety reasons).

References:

Highway Law §189

Village Law § 6-626

Powers & Duties Manual (from NYSLTAP)



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Property Owner & Highway Department Maintains



WHYS OF SNOWPLOWS

1. Why do snowplows drive so slow?



Snowplows typically drive at 35mph, this is to ensure the salt is being distributed evenly throughout the lanes.

2. What is a Travel Advisory?

It's a caution to drivers to avoid travel whenever possible when winter weather makes driving difficult.



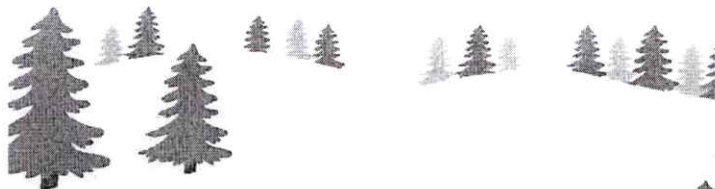
3. Why does the plow always bury my driveway?



When digging out your driveway, pile the snow on the right side, as the plow pushes snow from the left.

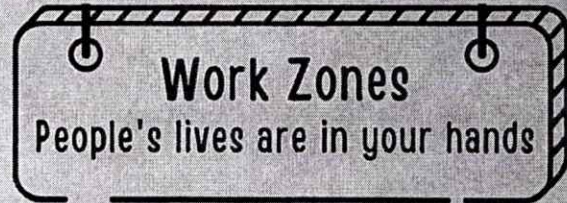
4. Why is my road always plowed last?

Your local highway and DPW departments must plow the highest priority roads first. These roads are the most traveled, including roads that contain hospitals, schools, and evacuation routes.



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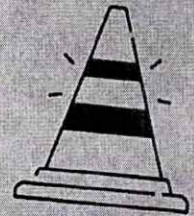


Slow Down.

Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes. Everyone in the work zone is part of a family, it could be yours!

Pay attention to the signs.

The warning signs are there to help you move safely through the work zone. The black and orange signs let you know there is work being done.

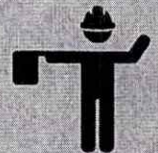


Don't Drive Distracted.

100% of your attention should be on the road and its surroundings. Checking your phone could be a matter of life or death.

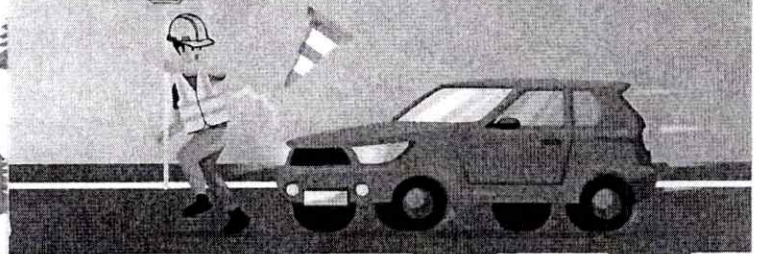
Obey the Flaggers.

The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely through the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign or a police officer, so you can be cited for disobeying their directions.



Be Patient & Stay Calm.

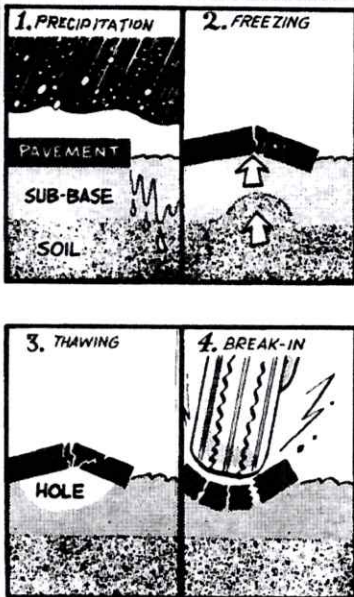
Work zones aren't there to inconvenience you. The work zone crew members are working to improve the road & make your future drive better.



POTHOLES

HOW ARE POTHOLES FORMED?

- Potholes develop when two factors are present at the same time - **water & traffic**; hence potholes commonly occur in the wheel path.



Special Report 81-21 Pothole primer
By: R.A Eaton, RH Joubert and E.A Wright 9/1981

POTHOLES IN THE ROAD, WHAT TO DO?

- Try to avoid the pothole, but avoid sharp turns of the steering wheel
- Slow down & drive carefully
- Traveling at full speed, slamming on the breaks, or sudden swerves can cause a crash

HOW ARE THEY FIXED?

The size of the pothole will determine the fix. A common successful technique for smaller potholes is known as **Throw & Roll**. Your municipality will place a modern asphalt and polymer-based patching mix in the hole. Then they will compact it with a truck tire. Slow down and give the workers room.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROAD

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



STATE ROADS

State roads are identified by a white shield with black letters. NYSDOT is responsible for these roads.

COUNTY ROADS

Blue shield with yellow lettering. The County is responsible for these roads



LOCAL ROADS

If there is no state or county shield, look for a street name sign. It may say county or state highway with a number. If so, contact the state or county. If not, start with the local jurisdiction. Even if they do not have maintenance responsibility, they can help you figure out who does.

If in a city or village, contact the DPW. Otherwise, start with the town highway department.



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WINTER WEATHER

DRIVING TIPS

BEFORE DRIVING

- Check tires, antifreeze, windshield wiper blades, fluids, and batteries
- **COMPLETELY** clean off your vehicle of snow & ice



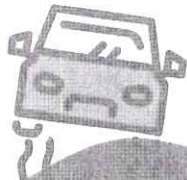
WHILE DRIVING

- Drive according to the conditions, and stay well below the posted speed limit
- Expect the unexpected, leave plenty of room between yourself & other vehicles



WHAT TO DO IF YOU START SKIDDING

- **Gently** steer into the skid to regain control of the vehicle
- Use safe breaking techniques to avoid skidding



KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT ON YOU

The kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Blankets
- Tools
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothes
- Flashlight
- Flares



NYS LTAP Center -
Cornell Local Roads
Program website



Information sourced
from Washington
County's Safety PINS

Sharing the road with farm and construction vehicles

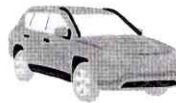
WHAT DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW

- This equipment is heavy, making it hard to accelerate, slow down, & stop.
- They often cross the centerline when making a turn.
- They have large blind spots.



SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS

- Watch for debris and slow down if there is anything in the road.
- Don't assume the operator can see you
- Wait until it is safe to pass.
- Wear a seatbelt and drive with your headlights on.
- When approaching farm or construction equipment leave ample room between the vehicles.



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- Make your equipment more visible by using flashers or lights.
- Avoid signaling for motorists to pass, pull over when it is safe and let them pass.
- Plan your route, try to avoid narrow streets where you could potentially damage signs, lighting, and other roadway structures.
- If moving equipment at night, consider using an escort vehicle.

