

## The 4-1-1 on winter maintenance operations



Major snow storms, freezing rain and everything in between require our team at the OCRC to be ready at all times.

Our crews monitor the weather 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the winter using radar and several professional weather services.

A typical winter season means that we'll respond to as many as 50

winter maintenance callouts. In all, we'll use about 20,000 to 25,000 tons of salt, and 14,000 to 18,000 tons of sand during a winter maintenance season.



The cost of all this salt and sand can quickly add up in the budget.

This winter, OCRC will pay \$72.23

per ton for an allocation of 22,500 tons of road salt for the 2019-20 winter maintenance season -- an increase of almost \$10 per ton compared to last season.

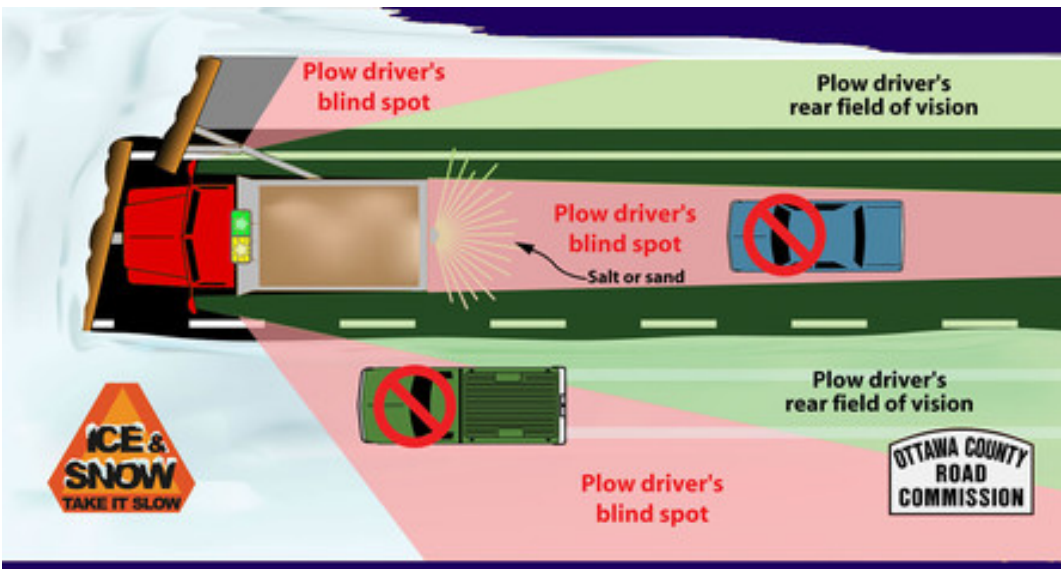
How does the price per ton of road salt compare to other products used by the OCRC throughout the year, such as gravel and asphalt?

Gravel costs can range from \$6.95 to \$10.25 per ton, and asphalt prices can range from \$58 up to \$125 per ton, depending on the type of material and quantity purchased.

In all, the cost of winter maintenance can easily be in excess of \$3.1 million annually and can depend upon the severity and length of the winter season.

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## Don't crowd the plow this winter season



While winter hasn't officially started, our hard working team has already been out combating

winter weather.

And with plenty more winter weather sure to come, now serves as a good reminder to be on the lookout for Road Commission trucks working to make travel easier for all of us.

If you come upon a snow plow during your daily commute, please remember:

- Never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.
  - Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks.
  - Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck.
  - Do not text or talk on cell phones while driving.
  - Additionally, always remember to wear your safety belt.
  - Give yourself extra time to reach your destinations during the winter.
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## How to avoid the dreaded 'second shovel'



The sinking feeling you feel when the end of your freshly shoveled driveway is buried in snow from a passing plow truck can easily be avoided.

To avoid this dreaded "second shovel," simply clear an area before your driveway large enough for the snow coming off the blade to be deposited (to the right as you face your home or business).

Additionally, shovel your snow in the direction of traffic, depositing snow to the left as you face your home or business.

This is also the best location to place your mailbox in order to reduce the possibility of damage. However, be sure to check with the U.S. Post Office first before moving your mailbox, as they may have certain requirements for the placement of the mailbox and where it needs to be located.

To help illustrate these best practices, you can refer to the above illustration created by the County Road Association of Michigan.

A little strategizing while shoveling your driveway can save you both time and frustration at the end of the day.

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**Important Dates:**

**December 5, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**

**December 19, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**

**December 25, 2019 | Office closed for Christmas**

**January 1, 2020 | Office closed for New Years' Day**



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