



The Road Newsletter, Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2017

Where & How to Place Your Garbage Can During Winter

Heavy snow accumulation, icy roads and/or poor visibility during winter maintenance activities can make it difficult for snowplows to avoid garbage cans placed alongside the road. During snowstorms it may be necessary to postpone putting your trash out on pick-up days. Knowing how to make waste collection as easy as possible is important, so here are a few helpful tips that are sure to come in handy during the winter months.

When you dig out your driveway, be sure to **dig out a spot for your garbage can.**

Do not place garbage cans in the street. We realize this cleared area is an enticing location to place garbage cans, but it creates a hazard as they could get hit by vehicles or taken away by snowplows. Most garbage trucks are equipped with a hydraulic extending arm that grasps garbage cans. It is recommended that garbage cans be placed at least 3 to 5 feet off the edge of pavement, into your driveway, so they are out of the way of the snowplow or snow being pushed aside while the snowplow is going down the road.



Do not place garbage cans on top of the snow piles. This placement might cause your garbage can to tip over and litter your garbage along the street, and it also makes it difficult for the garbage trucks to set the cart back down.



Timing is everything. Putting your trash out the night before collection day can make life easier, but this puts your receptacle at risk of damage during nighttime snowplowing operations. Getting up a bit early in the morning to handle this chore can avoid having garbage cans knocked over by strong winter winds or snowplows.

Retrieve your garbage cans soon after collection. Garbage cans often sit at the roadside on collection day until the evening. Empty cans are vulnerable to winds and snow removal operations and could cause a hazard if knocked into the roadway. Prompt removal of empty containers is recommended.

These tips can make garbage collection day safer and easier for snowplow and garbage truck drivers.

What to Do if Your Mailbox is Damaged

If your mailbox is damaged by Road Commission equipment or snow thrown from Road Commission equipment during winter maintenance operations, you may receive a new standard mailbox and/or a single 4"x4" wood post at one of the garage locations listed below.



It is requested that you provide either the actual damaged mailbox/post or a photo of the actual damaged mailbox/post before a new standard mailbox and/or a single 4"x4" wood post can be issued. Upon receipt of a new mailbox and/or post, you will be asked to sign a register and provide the property address.

Please note that you are responsible for removing the damaged mailbox/post and installing the replacement mailbox/post. Standard mailboxes and posts can be picked up at any of the following locations:

Grand Haven Office / Garage
14110 Lakeshore Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Coopersville Garage
526 Cleveland Street
Coopersville, MI 49404

North Holland Garage
12150 Ransom Street
Holland, MI 49424

Hudsonville Garage
2232 Chicago Drive
Hudsonville, MI 49426



Please call (616) 842-5400 to set up an appointment. The locations are open Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Appointments are made between the hours of 7:30AM and 3:30PM.

Frigid Bridges

Why do bridges and overpasses freeze before the surface of the road?



Even when air and road surface temperatures drop below freezing, the heat from the ground underneath the road keeps it warm enough to delay icing. Bridges have no way to trap heat and are exposed to cold air on all sides, so they more easily lose heat and freeze shortly after air temperatures hit the freezing point. A bridge will reflect the air temperature very closely. If the air temperature falls below freezing, a bridge's surface will fall below freezing very quickly, causing rain or snow to freeze and stick to the road surface.

The Road Commission will place liquid anti-icing materials on bridge surfaces when the temperatures are expected to be between 15°F and 35°F. If the surface is wet, then a 60/40 salt to sand mixture is treated with the liquid anti-icing material (called pre-wetting) and then placed on the bridge surface. Once applied, both treatments can last up to 72 hours.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Is it safe to pass a snowplow?

In today's environment everyone is in a hurry to get to their destination. However, the Road Commission encourages motorists to be extra cautious as slippery roads, reduced visibility, and excessive speeds greatly reduce the margin of error during winter driving. Road Commission snowplows travel at slower speeds than the normal traffic to clear snow and apply salt. Motorists may be inclined to pass the snowplows, but it is not recommended.



The action of passing can be extremely dangerous due to pavement conditions that vary across the path taken to pass. Snowplows may be equipped with wing plow blades that can extend off to the right anywhere between 2 and 10 feet beyond the width of the truck (See the photo). This wing plow blade is often not seen because of the snow cloud created by the snowplow. These wing plows can often weigh as much as a compact car. As such, motorists attempting to pass a snowplow on the right may not see the snowplow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.

Lawn Damage from Plows

Despite the best efforts of the winter maintenance crews, lawns along the edge of the road occasionally may be damaged during snow removal activities. Residents who experience lawn damage are asked to contact the Road Commission at (616) 842-5400 on normal business days between 7:30AM and 3:30PM. Your address will be placed on a list for spring cleanup once all the snow is melted. Lawn damage is restored by Road Commission crews with the placement of top soil and grass seed.

To minimize lawn damage, the Road Commission installs wooden stakes at various locations to mark the edge of pavement prior to the first snow event. The stakes are typically installed at intersections or curves within subdivision streets that are difficult for the snow plow drivers to judge. These stakes may break off after a couple of plowing operations, but they do serve a purpose in establishing appropriate plowing limits.



Recognizing that property owners may be concerned with possible lawn damage resulting from our snow removal activities, the Road Commission approves on a seasonal basis, installation of snow plow markers within the right-of-way by abutting property owners. Typically the markers should be placed a minimum of 2' from the pavement edge and never closer than area mail box supports. The markers should consist of an aluminum support and reflector, breakaway fiberglass that are commonly available at hardware stores, or wooden stakes not larger than 1"x2"x30" high. The top 9" of the wooden stakes should be covered with fluorescent orange paint for visibility.

Maintenance of the markers and their spring time removal is the property owner's responsibility.

Important Dates

Thursday – January 5, 2017 | 9AM | Board Meeting

Thursday – January 19, 2017 | 9AM | Board Meeting



14110 Lakeshore Drive
PO Box 739
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
616-842-5400
Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM



STAY CONNECTED. SUBSCRIBE:

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners: Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema
Managing Director: Brett Laughlin

Who manages the roads and how are they funded? The Ottawa County Road Commission manages the roads--not the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners or County staff. The Ottawa County Road Commission is primarily funded by fuel taxes and vehicle registrations. Concerns about roads should be directed to the Ottawa County Road Commission. Questions? [Contact Us](#)

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Receive fewer or more messages](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to balaughlin@ottawacorc.com using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Ottawa County, Michigan · 12220 Fillmore Street · West Olive, MI 49460

powered by
govDELIVERY
get the word out.