

Boulder County Snow Removal Information

Goals

Our goal is to provide snow removal to facilitate traffic flow for those utilizing county roads.

Snow Removal Priority System

Due to the use of specialized equipment, logistics, timing and available resources necessary to provide efficient and effective snow removal for county-maintained roads, each road is assigned a snow removal priority. These designations are adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners to maximize the effectiveness of Boulder County snow removal operations. The assigned maintenance priority is shown on the Boulder County Road Map, available here:

<https://boco.org/snow-removal-priority>

Priority 1 – Main Arterial

These roads are on primary snow routes. Indicates that the road will be plowed to maintain continuous all-weather access within the maximum capabilities of the county.

Priority 2 – Collector

These roads are on secondary snow routes. Indicates that the road will be plowed to provide reasonable all-weather access as time and resources allow.

Priority 3 – Local Access

Indicates that the road will not be plowed to provide access during all storm conditions and will be plowed only as time and resources allow.

N – No Snow Removal

Indicates that snow removal is not provided on this road by Boulder County, or that the roadway is plowed by other agencies or by private entities.

General Operating Procedures and Guidelines

The time needed to clear roads is affected by snowstorm intensity and duration, temperature, traffic conditions, time of day and available resources.

Roads may not be plowed or treated at the same time each day or even the same day throughout the winter season. During snow events, snow removal operations commence when snow begins to accumulate on the roads and continue until the storm ends. As resources allow, full crew strength is maintained between the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with reduced crews operating overnight between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

School bus routes are given additional attention as resources allow.

Sanding and deicer treatment may be minimized during heavy snowfall because accumulating snow covers the materials and they may be removed by plowing during ongoing snow removal operations.

Cul-de-sacs and roads with no outlet that do not have adequate space to safely turn equipment around will not be plowed.

Vehicles parked on roads in a manner that restricts or prevents the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment may cause the road to be unplowed until vehicles are removed.

During plowing operations, the traveled lanes of the road are cleared first. Plows then return to widen the roadway according to the priority system. We will return to widen near mailboxes and driveways as conditions warrant and resources allow.

According to Postal Regulations, it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear snow from in front of mailboxes to allow for mail delivery. Mailboxes installed within county road right-of-way are done so at the risk of the owner.

Boulder County uses a variety of sanding and deicer materials, including a sand and salt mix, liquid deicers and products such as Ice Slicer, Rapid Thaw and Ice Kicker.

Winter conditions can cause pavement to rapidly form potholes. Crews are dispatched as soon as possible after storms to repair potholes. Temporary materials are used during winter pavement repairs and may not last.

Many roads within Boulder County are maintained by other municipalities or by CDOT. Before contacting Boulder County, please check the Boulder County Road Map (<https://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/maps/roadmap/>) to confirm the jurisdiction of the road.

How You Can Help

When following snow removal equipment, travel a minimum of 200 feet behind to allow for sanding and possible abrupt movements of the equipment.

Exercise extreme care when driving in inclement weather. Driving on snow-packed and icy roads requires your full attention and your best driving skills. A few basic guidelines to remember when driving this winter:

- During a snowfall, you can help county snow crews by not parking in cul-de-sacs and along primary routes.
- Be patient, drive at reduced speeds and allow more travel time to reach your destination.
- Remember to brake slowly and leave adequate room between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Chains or adequate snow tires may be required on vehicles during snowy and icy conditions. Make sure your vehicle is equipped to operate safely in adverse conditions.

Our operators often work long hours under difficult and hazardous conditions. They appreciate courteous and careful drivers. Please help them to help you.