

PREPARE FOR WINTER

HELP US HELP YOU

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MAILBOX SURVIVAL

During the winter months, on occasion mailboxes become damaged or broken as a result of snow being thrown against them by Town Public Works snowplows during snow removal. Snow thrown against a mailbox is often sufficient to cause damage to a less than perfect installation. Moisture content of the snow varies between storms, the higher the moisture content, the heavier the snow will be. This snow, mixed with the snowmelt caused by salt and traffic, may be ten times as heavy.

Help Us Help You:

Inspect your mailbox post for age, cracks, dry rot and deterioration at the bottom where the post goes into the ground. Posts with cracks, dry rot, or deterioration at the bottom are likely to fail when wet snow from the snowplow trucks hits them.

Keep in mind that the larger the mailbox, the more square inches of area is exposed to the force of the snow. A larger, sturdier post and mount are needed to support the load.

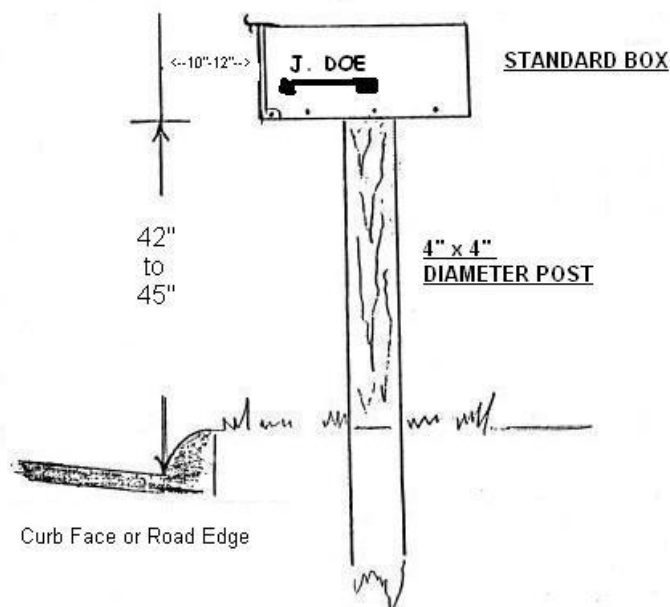
Decorative posts turned on a lathe to make them round in places reduce the strength of the post. They will not withstand the twisting torque motion causing a split along the grain of the wood starting at the support arm or at one of the narrowest points.

Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes that haven't been adequately mounted or braced; or those mailboxes whose doors have been left open. Also private contractors, homeowners clearing snow, errant motorists, etc., damage mailboxes. The Town will not compensate for mailboxes in these situations.

Mailboxes are to be installed 42" to 45" above the gutter line and 10" to 12" behind the edge of the road or face of curb, allowing the plow to clear snow to the road edge.

The Town will not be responsible for additional paper boxes or decorations placed or installed below the required mailbox height.

The Town will compensate for a damaged mailbox when the Director of Public Works, or his designee, determines that a plow physically hit the mailbox. This determination is made by observation of cut marks, paint off the plow blade, etc. In the event a mailbox or post is physically struck by the Town Highway Department snowplow/truck, it will be repaired or replaced only if the mailbox was installed properly. The repair or replacement by the Highway Department will be with a standard Post Office-approved mailbox and/or a pretreated 4" x 4" square wooden post. No mailbox or post will be repaired or replaced if the force of snow thrown by plows caused damage. See sketch of a typical mailbox installation.



SIDEWALK CLEARING – TOWN ORDINANCE §169-27

It is time to start thinking about the winter weather. Here is a neighborly reminder: if you have a sidewalk in front of your house, it is not only imperative, but also considerate to clear it from snow and ice to allow the safe passage for you and your neighbors. In accordance with Town Ordinance §169-27, each property owner is required to remove any and all snow and ice within 24 hours after the storm. It is better to remove it immediately following the storm, as it is easier at that time.

SANDBOX LOCATIONS

The Farmington Highway and Grounds Division of Public Works will place sandboxes at the following locations:

- East Farms Fire Station
- Farmington Fire Station
- Oakland Gardens Fire Station
- Southwest Fire Station
- Tunxis Hose Fire Station
- Farmington Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works and Development Services,
544 New Britain Avenue, Unionville

This sand is for icy walkways, and is not intended for residents' driveways. To be considerate of others, please limit yourself to a 5-gallon container. Commercial users are not allowed to remove sand from these sandboxes. Thank you.