

Town of Verona, Highway Snow Removal Policy

Snow removal by private citizens & contractors

Vehicle & Traffic Law §1219, prohibits discarding or plowing snow in the road, it is illegal and dangerous to plow or push snow from private property onto public roads. Violations can be up to \$150 for first offenses plus damages, if applicable.

General Snowplowing Information

Each snowplow run takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete, and your road or street will be plowed and/or sanded/salted in each run. If the snow continues to be heavy, our plows will reload with salt/sand and begin their route all over again and repeat this as many times as necessary throughout the storm.

Mailboxes vs. Snowplows

According to NYS law, mailboxes are considered obstructions and are placed in the public right-of-way as a courtesy, so the property owner is ultimately responsible for any damage from plowing. While state law does not require municipalities to repair mailboxes, many towns have policies to repair or replace them if damage is caused by a direct hit from a municipal plow during normal operations and the mailbox was properly installed. The repair or replacement is typically limited to a standard, basic mailbox.

What state law says:

- Mailboxes are considered "highway obstructions" under [Section 319 of NYS Highway Law](#).
- They are allowed in the right-of-way as a convenience, but there is no legal requirement for the municipality to repair them if they are damaged during snow removal operations.
- An [opinion from the NYS Attorney General](#) states that when the need to keep the highway open conflicts with receiving mail, the latter must stand aside.
- The Town of Verona does not accept liability if a mailbox is damaged during Highway snow removal operations pursuant to [NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law 1103\(b\)](#) which states that the rules of the road shall not apply to snowplows while engaged in snowplow operations. The idea behind giving snowplows immunity is to give them more flexibility when dealing with snow removal generally and winter storm emergencies specifically.

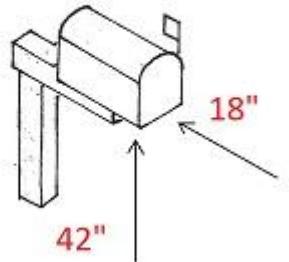
To report a mailbox concern, please call the highway department at 315.363.6799. Sometimes we inadvertently hit a mailbox or the weight of the snow will damage the box or post. Call the highway office to report it and we will make arrangements to assess the damage. If we find it is our responsibility, the Town will come to your residence and fix your mailbox so

you can receive mail. Sometimes this will have to be a temporary fix until time and weather permits a permanent repair. Occasionally, it may be necessary to make arrangements with the post office to hold your mail until we can deal with your mailbox repair.

Best way to limit interruptions in Mail delivery: Mailbox Guidelines

To minimize the risk of damage:

- The mailbox, including support arm, should have a **minimum** clearance of 42" above the roadside shoulder.
- The front of the mailbox should **not** extend beyond the edge of the shoulder.
- The mailbox post should be a **minimum** of 18" from the edge of the shoulder.
- The mailbox assembly should be clearly visible.
- For rural roads without curbs, this usually places the box 16 feet or more from the center line to avoid damage from snowplows.



A mailbox assembly shall not be constructed or installed in a manner that interferes with routine snow removal, or in a manner which clearly presents an unacceptable risk to snow removal operations or the traveling public. If you are planning a new mailbox installation on a County Road, call 315-363-6799 for guidance on location and type of construction.

Lawns vs Snowplows

Each fall our drivers spend several days staking the difficult areas on their routes. If you feel that your property deserves more staking, please feel free to purchase stakes and place them on your property.

If your lawn is dug by our snowplow wings or blade, please call the highway garage at 315-363-6799 and report the information, and the Town will evaluate the damage.

When the spring weather comes, our crews will come to your property and make the necessary repairs.