

Our mission throughout the winter is to maintain safe and passable roads. Often, that means plowing deep snow to the edge of the right-of-way.

Middlesex Township allows property owners to place mailboxes within the Township's legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery; ultimately however, mailbox damage due to the weight of the snow plowed away from the road is the responsibility of the property owner.

In the event the Township can confirm that a snow plow, or plow truck, physically struck and damaged a mailbox, the Township will replace the damaged mailbox as soon as we possibly can at no charge to the resident.

Since most mailboxes are placed within the Township's legal right-of-way, it is up to the homeowner to make sure that their mailbox can withstand the weight of snow being thrown from a plow. Snowplow operators are instructed to maintain lower speeds when plowing in areas where mailboxes are present. However, higher speeds must be maintained to contend with heavy, wet snow.

Normally, if mailboxes are placed as far beyond the shoulder of the road as the postal carrier can reach and it is firmly supported, there should be no problem withstanding the weight of the snow as a plow passes.

The Township offers these tips to help eliminate the possibility of a mailbox being damaged during the winter months:

- Place a six to eight-inch piece of reflective tape on the mailbox to help snow plow operators see it at night;
- Remove snow from around the mailbox, but avoid throwing it back onto the road;
- If the mailbox is located within the legal right-of-way and damage was experienced in the past, homeowners may want to consider relocating the mailbox before the next snowfall;
- Make sure the mailbox is firmly supported in the ground.

Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and still experience damaged mailboxes may want to consider installing a cantilever mailbox support that will "swing" a mailbox out of harm's way. Plans for building the Cantilever Mailbox support are located below.

Taking steps to ensure the visibility and stability of mailboxes will help the Township and postal carriers deliver their best during the winter months.