



Walworth Highway Department Mailbox Repair Policy

Although we take great care at minimizing mailbox damage during the winter season, there are times when overall visibility, oncoming traffic, and heavy snow conditions work against us, and damage to your mailbox cannot be avoided. In most of these instances, mailboxes are damaged by the force of heavy snow and ice hitting your mailbox as snow is removed from the roadway. It is a New York State Attorney General ruling that mailboxes are private property that are placed in the public right of way and are not subject to repair by the municipality. However, we will repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts when we determine the damage was caused by our plows. If your mailbox is damaged because of a rotten post or rusted box, or your personal plow driver created the damage, any repairs then become your responsibility.

All damaged mailboxes/posts will be replaced by a standard metal mailbox with a 4" x 4" pressure treated post. Therefore, if you have a special, custom, or oversized mailbox, you may want to consider replacing it for the winter season, as we will not replace it with the same box you have before the damage occurred. Due to frozen ground, it may be necessary to place a temporary box and post so you may continue to receive your mail until proper repairs can be made.

Helpful Guidelines

When Installing Your Mailbox:

POSITIONING/PLACING THE MAILBOX

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" above ground level.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb. If you do not have a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.
- Put your house or apartment number on the mailbox.
- If your mailbox is on a different street from your house or apartment, put your full street address on the box.
- If you are attaching the box to your house, make sure the postal carrier can reach it easily from your sidewalk, steps, or porch.

INSTALLING THE MAILBOX POST

- The best mailbox supports are stable but bend or fall away if a car hits them.
- The Federal Highway Administration recommends a 4" x 4" wooden support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe.
- Avoid installing unyielding, potentially dangerous supports like heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, or types of farm equipment (i.e. milk cans filled with concrete).
- Bury posts no more than 24" deep.

The best method to protecting your mailbox during the winter months is to ensure it is properly attached to the post, and to keep the mailbox assembly simple to limit the potential impact surface area for plowed snow. Over the last few years, the practice of plowing or depositing snow from private driveways or private property onto highways has grown significantly, and especially after the roadways are clear and snow has been pushed back behind the shoulders by the Highway Department. This is a dangerous practice and is strictly prohibited under Section 1219 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and Section 214 of New York State Highway Law. Depositing snow or ice onto the roadway or shoulder may result in a serious accident and those responsible may be held liable.

Please contact the Highway Department at **(315) 524-3150** with any questions or concerns.