



PUBLIC WORKS

Overview

The Public works Department strives to provide cost-effective and responsive municipal services to the public. The Public Works Department is responsible for roads & streets maintenance, upgrades & snow removal, water supply & distribution and wastewater collection & treatment.

Water & Sewer

Water Supply

The Town's water is supplied from two underground well locations. Well # 2 is used only as a standby supply. The primary supply is Well # 3 which supplies all the water to the Town of Nackawic. The Town currently does not chlorinate the water supply continuously. However, in each location there are standby injection chlorinators.

The Town follows a strict monitoring and sampling schedule for the water supply and distribution system, set out by the Department of Environment and Local Government in collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness. Even though the Town's water is of high quality, it is necessary to chlorinate when a potential threat to the user may arise. The chlorinators are activated during water main flushing, maintenance/repairs, new water main installation and when there is a chance and/or detection of contamination within the water supply and/or distribution system.

The health and safety of the Town's water users is the number one concern. It is with this in mind that the Town operates and maintains the water supply and distribution system.

Water & Sewer Service Installation & Maintenance

For new owners or those upgrading their system here is some potential useful information:

- The installation of a house services starts with the Building Permit Application. At this time all materials should be listed for review by the Public Works Foreman/Building inspector.
- Water & Sewer laterals shall be installed under the direct supervision of the Public Works Foreman. Such control of the installation allows the Town to provide timely response to any emergencies that may arise free of charge.

- Often, within a year or two of the service lateral installation the service trench may settle. If this occurs, the owner is recommended to take of the problem without municipal assistance. As all work involved in the installation or maintenance of the services is paid for by the owner, and as experience suggests that the owner can usually get the problem repaired at a lower cost. Town forces do not normally conduct maintenance on private property.
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Curb Stops

The water service installed to your property incorporates a valve, called a “curb stop”, buried in the ground at or near the property line. Utility personnel can open or close this valve through a pipe assembly called a “curb box”. If this curb box height needs adjusting so your mower or plow misses it, please call us.

Some Appliances May be Hazardous to Your Health

Do you have any of the following connected to your water system?

- Soap/chemical dispensers
- Post-mix pop dispensers
- Reverse osmosis machines (bottled water)
- Ice machines
- Coffee machines (water supplied)
- Pasta cookers
- Steamer/cookers
- Proofers (making bread/muffins/pizza dough)
- Water softeners/conditioners
- Water source heat pumps
- Water filters
- Humidifiers (directly connected to water)
- Cooling towers
- Heating boilers

If a licensed plumber did not install the unit, using approved protection devices, then you and others in your building may be at risk. The risk may be very real, while the repair is typically inexpensive. If you are not sure you are safe, please have a licensed plumber review the installation as soon as possible.

Your Sewer Cleanout & Water Meter

Your sewer cleanout should remain accessible in case a problem develops that requires our assistance. As well your water meter should be accessible in case it needs maintenance. Next to your meter or where the water services enters the building is your main valve, which you may need in a hurry should a leak develop in your own plumbing. Exercising this valve from time to time will help ensure that it can be easily operated should a problem develop with interior plumbing. Renovations should never make these inaccessible.

Responsible Sewer Use

Which Of The Following Can Be Properly Disposed Of By Flushing Down A Toilet?

- houseplant leaves and clippings;
- silt or mud;
- rags;
- human or animal hair; tea bags, coffee grounds, filters;
- cooking grease or animal grease;
- cigarettes, cigars, butts;
- kitty litter;
- solvents, paint;
- sanitary napkins;
- tampon applicators, plastic;
- tampon applicators, cardboard;
- tampons;
- disposable diapers;
- condoms;
- boxes, packaging, wrappers.

ANSWER:

- **NONE OF THEM!!** It does not matter what you have been told or what it says on the package, these items do not biodegrade during the time spent in the wastewater collection and treatment systems. They cause blockages in sanitary sewer service laterals, connections, and sanitary mains causing backups into homes, and unnecessary discharges to the environment. They foul valves and pumps, resulting in many thousands of dollars in maintenance and repair costs each year in our Town.

The same answer goes to homes which use on-site disposal (septic tanks and disposal fields). These items do not quickly biodegrade and therefore take up space while they may interfere with the normal operation in the tank. They may also interfere with tank maintenance, and may detrimentally affect the municipal system when/if the sludge is finally disposed of in that system.

For the environmentally conscious, the general rule is:

If you did not eat it first, you should find another way to dispose of it.

A Special Note About Grease

By a large margin, the biggest problem related to people's sewer lines, and most of the maintenance necessary in our collection system is caused by **greases and cooking oils being poured down drains and flushes**. Hot oils, even when accompanied by hot water from kitchen taps, quickly cool and attach to service laterals and collection pipes. These decrease the space for the wastewater, and sometimes combine with papers, tissues, and those other materials to form blockages. These require crews working full time to keep the mains clear, and result in a lot of

overtime calls to very distraught home and business owners.

The cost, which is added to our water bills, is significant. Other costs might include personal property and insurance claims resulting from sewer backups. The damage doesn't stop there, either; as these products do not biodegrade fast enough to be removed efficiently in a wastewater treatment plant.

So, for those of us who are responsible, cost-sensitive, and/or environmentally conscious, putting grease and oil down the drains is not appropriate.

Roads & Streets

Snow & Ice

During the winter months, the control of snow and ice on town streets and sidewalks is a top priority for the Town. Here are some of the services provided as part of the Town's Snow and Ice Control Plan:

- **Snow Plowing / Sanding of Streets**

Streets are serviced according to the following priorities:

- Primary
- Secondary
- Local Streets

High priority streets are serviced first, and receive a higher level of service.

Remember, you may not live on a priority one street, but you probably drive on one. It is to everyone's benefit that these high volume streets are serviced first.

Note that it is not part of the Snow and Ice Control plan to produce bare pavement on streets. Also, the time required to "bare up" streets is very much dependent upon weather conditions.

- **Plowing / Sanding of Sidewalks**

Sidewalks are serviced according to the following priorities:

- High pedestrian traffic routes
- Sidewalks where there is high traffic volumes on the adjacent streets
- Sidewalks near schools
- Remaining sidewalks

Note: It is a NOT part of the Snow and Ice Control Plan to "bare up" any sidewalks. Sand is provided on sidewalks to improve traction.

Also note the small sidewalk machine is slowed by heavy or wet snowfall accumulations.

Here are some of the services that people often request which we don't provide:

- We don't plow driveways
- We don't lift the wing at the end of driveways
- We don't plow lower priority streets before higher priority streets

Overall, the Town of Nackawic's Snow and Ice Control services compare very favorably with those provided in other New Brunswick municipalities. Snow and ice can be an inconvenience, but we do our best to provide safe streets and sidewalks.

- **Snow Tips**

There are a few things you can do to help yourself:

- Sometimes it takes several passes with the plow to completely clear the street. Wait until plowing is completed, and you will only have to shovel your driveway once.
- When you shovel your driveway, place the snow on the "upstream" side so your driveway won't be filled in the next time the plow comes by.
- Gear up for winter. Keep your car well tuned, and keep adequate supplies of salt and sand on hand for your driveway. If some is needed you can pick up small quantities at the Public Works Garage.

There are things you can do to help the Town crews:

- Observe snow by-laws
- Don't park overnight on any Town street
- Don't push snow from a driveway or parking lot onto a Town street or sidewalk
- Don't park your vehicle at the end of your driveway in a way that would impede the Town plow.
- To help prevent localized flooding, try to keep the catch basin adjacent to your property free from ice and snow.
- Please don't place garbage or garbage containers where they can be buried, damaged or interfere with snow removal.
- Avoid unnecessary spinning of tires at intersections. This practice is dangerous and is hazardous to other motorists. It also tends to "ice up" the intersections.
- Avoid installing mail boxes where they can be damaged by plowing operations. Canada Post can provide guidelines concerning the proper distances mail boxes should be placed from road surfaces.

"DRIVE CAREFULLY"

The Public Works Department attempts to minimize the impact of snow and ice. However, it is each motorist's responsibility to drive according to the road conditions. If it is slippery, slow down.