

Snow Facts

Northern Virginia 2017-18

Arlington*, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties
*Arlington maintains own secondary roads.



Lane miles to plow
13,585

INTERSTATE: **727**

PRIMARY: **1,736**

SECONDARY: **11,046** (includes 16,000 subdivision streets)

Anti-icing

- A few days in advance
- If pavement is above 20 degrees
- If weather won't begin as rain
- Most effective first hour of storm

2,150 lane miles of interstates and major roads including bridges, ramps, and overpasses are treated with brine and/or liquid magnesium chloride.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brine is a mix of 23% salt and 77% water.

Mobilization

We monitor the forecast closely and mobilize crews and resources. Trucks report, load, and deploy:

- 12-18 hours before small event
- 18-24 hours large storm

If 2 or more inches are forecasted, residents may see trucks begin staging in neighborhoods.

24 Salt Domes

The dome at I-495 and Van Dorn, our largest, holds 33,000 tons of salt

18 Area Headquarters

ARLINGTON: **1** LOUDOUN: **4**
FAIRFAX: **9** PRINCE WILLIAM: **4**

Materials on Hand

SALT: **120,000 tons**
BRINE: **250,000 gallons**
SAND: **25,000 tons**

4,500 Vehicles

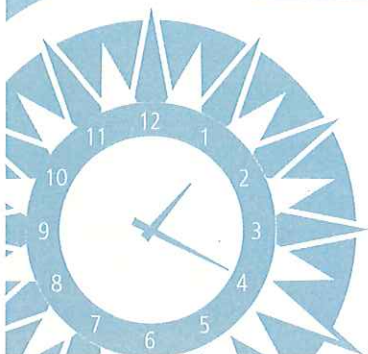
97% OF FLEET IS CONTRACTED



Clearance goals after storm ends

HOW LONG FOR A PASSABLE LANE ON ALL ROADS?
Crews start plowing at 2 inches.

2-4" OF SNOW: **24 hours**
4-6" OF SNOW: **48 hours**
6" + OF SNOW: **72+ hours**



WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A STORM

Clearance Goals

For one passable lane on all subdivisions:
2-4" of snow: 24 hours after storm ends
4-6" of snow: 48 hours after storm ends
6" or more: 72+ hours after storm ends

What Does "Passable" Mean?

In neighborhoods, an 8- to 10-foot path for emergency vehicle access. It is drivable with extreme caution, but is snow-packed and not curb-to-curb or to bare pavement. Crews will sand hills, curves and intersections to help with traction.

Sidewalks and Trails

While VDOT does not clear sidewalks and trails, crews are asked to be mindful, especially near schools. There is often limited room to pile snow, especially in significant storms, to make roads passable. Residents and businesses are asked to clear near their properties. Check with your locality for ordinances.

Driveways

The plows will push some snow back, so view our video at virginiadot.org/novaemergency for tips on shoveling before they arrive.

HOW WE CLEAR ROADS

Crews begin plowing when two inches have fallen.

Interstates and high-volume roads are made passable, then bare pavement where possible. Subdivision main roads are made passable, then remaining streets and cul-de-sacs.

Northern Virginia roads are divided among more than 600 "snow maps" assigned to plow drivers. Drivers complete a minimum of one pass on each road. VDOT employees also ride the roads and monitor remotely to check progress and ensure roads are safely passable.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- » Monitor forecasts frequently.
- » Adjust commutes, telework, and avoid driving if possible.
- » Park in driveways or on the odd-numbered side of the street.
- » Do not shovel driveway until plows have come through.
- » Have enough gas, wiper fluid, proper tires, medication, and an emergency car kit.
- » Be patient: crews need time and room to work.

SNOW BUDGET

2017-18 Season: \$84.9 million

STAY INFORMED

- » Twitter: [@vadotnova](https://twitter.com/vadotnova)
- » virginiadot.org/novaemergency for status updates, FAQs and other resources
- » 511virginia.org for road conditions
- » vdotplows.org for neighborhood status and locations of plows
- » Report issues to 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) or my.vdot.virginia.gov

