

Snow Removal Policy

Spring Garden Township is not responsible for damage to mailboxes caused by snowplows since mailboxes are erected on the right-of-way at the property owner's risk. Please view the list of PennDOT suggestions below to reduce the possibility of mailbox damage.

PennDOT Suggestions

- Homeowners should make sure their mailbox is firmly supported and placed as far beyond the shoulder of the highway as the postal carrier can reach. It is good practice to check your mailbox support often.
- Place reflective tape on the mailbox to help snowplow operators see the mailbox during storms or dark hours.
- Remove snow from around the mailbox, but avoid throwing snow back on the roadway.
- If the mailbox is located within the legal right-of-way and damage is experienced in the past, you may want to consider relocating your mailbox.
- Homeowners can also consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing out of harms way.

Snowplow operators make every attempt to exercise care and maintain lower speeds when plowing in areas where mailboxes are curbside. However, sometimes due to heavy snow and slush conditions, higher speeds must be maintained to clear the roadway. Taking steps to ensure the visibility and stability of mailboxes will help snowplow operators and postal carriers continue to deliver quality service in winter.

The following is PennDOT's policy on mailboxes: "PennDOT allows property owners to place mailboxes within the limits of the legal right-of-way out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery. But because those boxes are within the right-of-way, damages are the responsibility of the property owner."

However, if a Township plow truck physically struck a mailbox along a Township road where the placement is in accordance with the specifications of the United States Postal Service, a representative from the Township will perform an inspection of the damage. If it is determined that a Township plow vehicle did indeed make direct contact with the mailbox, the claim will be honored. Claims will be denied if the mailbox was knocked over by snow or slush that was pushed by the plow. A mailbox or post will not be considered for replacement if the post shows signs of excessive rust, dry rot or is otherwise unstable, and/or was placed too close to the roadway. Depending on the damage sustained due to being struck physically by the plow truck, the Township typically uses the following: standard 4-inch by 4-inch wooden post and standard mailbox. Custom mailboxes and posts will not be replaced in-kind. Owner responsible for affixing properly sized house numbers on the mailbox.

The owner of the mailbox has 48 hours from the end of a snow event to submit a claim for consideration.

Claims must be in writing with clear photos showing the condition of the post and mailbox to: General@sgtwp.org.



In accordance with current postal guidelines, mailboxes are to be installed at least six (6) to eight (8) inches from the front face of the curb or edge of the pavement. The height of the bottom floor of the mailbox should be between 41" and 45" from the road surface. A semi-arch or extended arm-type support is recommended so that the snowplow can sweep under the box, avoiding contact.

fig a.

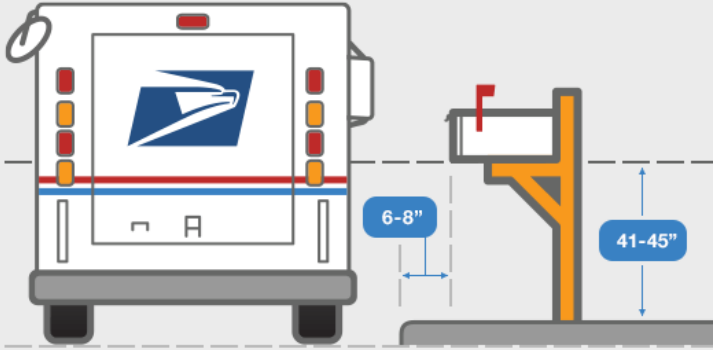


fig b.

