

Snow and Ice Control

Your Winter Road Map



Winter weather can be unpredictable, and while the County is committed to keeping roads safe and accessible, understanding how and when service happens helps everyone prepare and plan ahead. This is your winter road map - a guide to how Rocky View County manages snow and ice, from plowing after storms to sanding and salting when frigid temperatures create slippery conditions. With this guide, you'll be ready for whatever winter brings.

Who's Driving This Operation?

Before you set out, meet your road crew:

- Rocky View County Crews keep the following moving:

2,971 lane km of gravel **1,990** lane km of paved roads

(Including Range Roads, Township Roads, & many local residential roads)

- Government of Alberta Contractors handle all primary and secondary highways (Highway 1, Highway 9, Highway 22, etc.).

TIP If you're on a numbered highway, it's likely a provincial road. Not sure? Reach out at 403-230-1401 or questions@rockyview.ca.

Caution Zone: What Can Slow the Journey

Even the best road trip can have delays:

- Snow keeps falling and we must restart plowing high-priority roads.
- Parked or abandoned vehicles block our way.
- Storms hit during rush hour or overnight, slowing safe plowing speeds.
- Heavier snowfalls, ice buildup, and wind conditions may extend response times. During these times, live updates or real-time tracking is not available, but crews are active.

Priority Routes

Our most-traveled roads get attention first:

- Priority 1: Arterial Roads** – Main service and high-traffic roads, including emergency routes. They carry large volumes of traffic over long distances. Clearing and sanding begin during regular daytime hours once the snow starts to fall. While we work as quickly as we can, full coverage doesn't happen all at once. It can take up to 36 hours (1.5 days) to complete.
- Priority 2: Collector Roads** – Local connectors and neighborhood streets that direct traffic toward main arterial roads. Snow clearing begins after Priority 1 routes are complete. We aim to complete these roads within 60 hours (2.5 days) after a snow event ends.

NOTE

These timelines refer to the initial plow and sanding, intended to make roads passable. Crews will return for additional passes if needed, especially in areas with drifting snow or persistent ice. If snow continues falling, crews must return to re-clear Priority 1 roads before continuing to Priority 2.

Rural Crossroads: Off the Beaten Path

- Gravel roads are plowed when snow reaches 10 cm (about the height of a juice box).
- Sanding or grit may be applied for ice, even without deep snow.

Driveway Junction: Snow Ridges (Windrows)

After a plow or grader goes by, it can leave a snow ridge (called a "windrow") across the end of your driveway.

- County operators will do their best to minimize the amount of snow left in windrows by plows or graders; however, any remaining snow across driveways is the responsibility of the resident to clear.
- When clearing snow from your driveway, it is recommended to pile it on the right hand side as you face the street. This practice helps minimize the amount of snow pushed back across the driveway during plowing operations.

Why not remove windrows altogether?

- Removal would significantly increase cost for snow-clearing operations as it requires additional equipment, labour, and time at every property, greatly extending plowing durations and delaying service for all residents.
- The County focuses its efforts on keeping roadways safe, passable, and as efficient as possible during and after snow events.

Shared Road: How You Can Help

- Drive according to conditions. Plows move at safe, reduced speeds.
- Clear windrows for safety.
- Keep vehicles off the road during and after storms.

Frozen Zone: Ice Control

When winter gets bitterly cold, ice can build up quickly. It often happens when melting snow refreezes, during freezing rain, or when traffic packs snow into a slick layer. Alberta's famous chinooks also play a big role. The warm winds can melt snow during the day, only for it to freeze again overnight, creating that classic freeze-thaw cycle.

What We Use

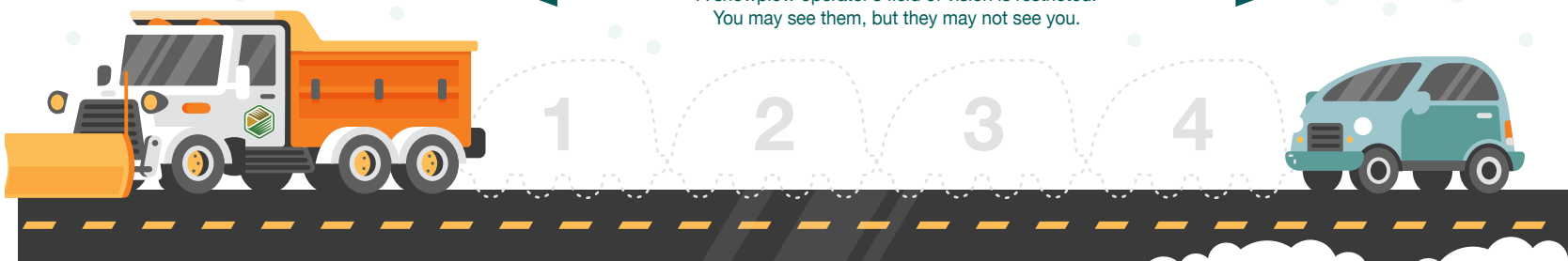
- We use a Pickle Mix: a blend of sand and salt.
- Sand improves traction.
- Salt melts ice and slows it from reforming.



Crews monitor road conditions daily, including early mornings and evenings. Pickle mix is applied proactively when surfaces are slippery, even without recent snowfall. However, during periods of extreme cold, the salt in the mix is less effective at initiating the thawing process. In these cases, the County will apply additional grit where possible to improve traction, particularly in high-risk areas.

Always stay at least four cars lengths back from a snowplow.

A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you.



Together, we can keep Rocky View County safe, connected, and ready for winter. If you see a road that needs attention, let us know. Your reports help us respond quickly and keep everyone moving safely.

Your Navigation Tools

Call: 403.230.1401 | Email: questions@rockyview.ca | Website: www.rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY