

Snow and Ice Program

Weather

Oregon's weather can change quickly and without warning. Winter can be particularly challenging. Whenever there is a chance of stormy conditions, ODOT prepares to enact its "Winter Level of Service" program.

Operations

Oregon's ice and snow removal program is a comprehensive strategy to maintain state highways for winter driving. This plan aids in preventing ice and snow buildup on the roadway and provides for the removal of ice and snow when winter weather arrives.

Be prepared to put on chains!

- Practice chaining up before you get out on the roads.
- Look for signs indicating when chains or traction tires are required. When required, pull over to the right of the highway as far as possible or pull into a "chain up" area.
- Use only your vehicle's recommended type and size of chains. Follow manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Do not deflate your tires to install chains.
- Use a tarp or plastic sheet to help keep you dry when chaining up.
- Keep children and pets in the vehicle to avoid distraction and injury.
- Carry a towel to clean your hands.
- Put an extra key in your pocket so you don't get locked out.



Know before you go...

Find out about road conditions, weather forecasts, chain requirements, incidents and more by visiting www.TripCheck.com or calling **5-1-1** (or **1-800-977-6368**). Out of state, call **1-503-588-2941**.



You're invited to learn more about the Oregon Department of Transportation's Snow and Ice Program.

Discover how ODOT clears highways and bridges, protects the environment, and helps motorists travel safely in much of the Willamette Valley, Coast Range, Cascades and the north and central Oregon coast (Region 2).





Methods and Equipment



Snowplows and Sanders

The snowplow has a front plow and may include side wing plows for extra width and a sander box for applying sand while plowing.



De-icing Agents

Anti-icing/de-icing: ODOT pre-treats roadway surfaces prior to freezing temperatures to help prevent the bond from forming between the pavement and the precipitation. ODOT also will use the de-icing technique to cut through frozen ice and snow. However, there are times when the accumulation occurs too quickly or temperatures drop, where de-icing is not effective. Then ODOT manages the pack or ice with sanding applications.

Which anti-icer/de-icer liquid is used by ODOT?

ODOT mainly uses **magnesium chloride**, which contains a rust inhibitor and was selected for its ability to meet the needs of Oregon's various temperatures, weather and environmental conditions.



Snow Blowers

Snow blowers are used to clear deep snow on mountain passes and along the highway where snow builds up and must be moved clear of obstructions.



Remember — do not pass snowplows on the right!

Tandem Plowing

Tandem plowing or gang plowing is used when plowing can only be done in one direction, such as a multi-lane divided highway. Additional plows are used to plow the on and off ramps.



Winter Weather Resources



ODOT uses the latest approaches to keep the state's roads safe and inform drivers about conditions.

Traffic Management Operations Center The Northwest

Transportation Operations Center in Region 2 is located in Salem and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Using the variable message boards, radio communications, traffic cameras and more, the NWTOC helps ensure effective and timely response to incidents. To report a hazard 24/7, call (503) 362-0457.



TripCheck.com and 511

ODOT's award-winning travel information site, www.TripCheck.com, is updated continually with the latest in incidents, road conditions, weather alerts from the National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration, chain information and more. Travelers can view any of more than 260 cameras located around the state to see how the roads look. Commuters in the Portland area can use the "speed map" to see how traffic is flowing.



No computer? No problem! Just dial 511 (or 1-800-977-6368). Out of state, call (503) 588-2941.

Variable Message Boards and Highway Advisory Radio (HAR)

In Region 2, ODOT has 14 roadside reader boards — electronic message boards that advise motorists of changing traffic conditions, crashes and incidents, speed limits and more. Also, special highway radio messages provide information on traffic conditions throughout the state.



10/12 – Form No. 734-2733 R2

TripCheck goes mobile!

ODOT's road information website, www.TripCheck.com/mobile, is now formatted for mobile devices, such as cell phones and personal digital assistants. By saving the TripCheck.com/mobile site as a bookmark on your iPhone or "favorites" on your smart phone, you can view camera shots, get the latest incident information, find out about chain requirements, locate a hotel (and dial directly to get a room!) and see weather alerts, plus much more, in an easy-to-navigate format. You can also sign up to get alerts through Twitter.

TripCheck.com is part of ODOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems effort, a statewide plan to help keep Oregon's roads safe and traffic moving. To learn more about ITS plans, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/ITS/its_documents.shtml.



To check road and weather conditions outside of Oregon:

Washington
(800) 695-7623

Idaho
(888) 432-7623

California
(800) 427-7623

