



Snow & Ice Fact Sheet

- The Ohio Turnpike begins preparing for the Snow and Ice season in the spring and wraps up in October with comprehensive winter equipment inspections at its Maintenance Garages.
- A Turnpike-wide, 136-point inspection of all snowplows and equipment takes place just before the first signs of winter. The maintenance department takes great pride in providing travelers the safest and most reliable roads in Ohio.
- In 2019-2020, the Turnpike was hit with approximately 63 winter storm events. Our crews worked more than 33,000 hours to keep the road and its facilities clear of ice and snow.
- We used more than 330,000 gallons of liquid chemicals and more than 48,000 tons of salt to remove snow and ice from our roadway and bridges.
- On average, we use 187,000 gallons of liquid chemicals and 66,000 tons of salt per year.
- Turnpike customers can be assured that approximately 100 snowplows will be available at any given moment to maintain the 1,395 lane miles, 31 interchanges, and 14 service plazas on the Ohio Turnpike.
- When required, crews will work 12-hour shifts seven days a week to provide customers with a safe and reliable route on the Ohio Turnpike.
- Turnpike crews use multiple techniques and advanced equipment to battle old-man winter, including the towplow.
- Towplows have the ability to clear and treat two lanes of traffic simultaneously while using only one truck.

- This is a tremendous benefit because it allows additional lane miles to receive attention in less time, saves fuel and creates fewer emissions.
- The top priority, especially during extremely heavy snowfall is clearing the right and center lanes of the Turnpike mainline. Then the crews focus attention on the interchanges, ramps and service plazas.
- The Ohio Turnpike is not subject to local Snow Emergencies and does not close during them.
- Typically, customers will see Turnpike trucks on the mainline performing tandem plowing, where two snowplows travel one behind the other to clear two lanes at the same time.
- Another method sometimes performed is Echelon Plowing, which utilizes four or more snowplows closely staggered to clear all lanes of the Turnpike, including the shoulders, with one pass. This is typically required when a single heavy storm or multiple storms occur.
- These techniques on the Turnpike, along with other standard practices, make it one of the safest routes to travel this winter.
- It's important for customers to do their part in making travel safe for everyone. Simple steps to take: make sure your vehicle is road-ready; plan for extra travel time when necessary; and always allow extra distance between vehicles.
- Motorists should slow down, avoid distractions and drive according to the conditions of the road. They should be especially cautious on ramps, bridges and overpasses. Travelers also should avoid passing snowplows and allow extra space for the plow drivers to do their job.

Additional statistics regarding Snow & Ice pricing and usage

Regarding the price:

The average price of winter-fill salt decreased by approximately 23 percent for the 2020-2021 season compared to last year.

As follows:

2019/2020 average winter price was \$72.49

2020/2021 average winter price is \$52.99

What price do we expect to pay this winter?

Our average winter-fill price is \$52.99/ton.

How much will we buy?

Our estimated winter-fill quantity is 48,200 tons.

How much do we have on hand already?

We currently have approximately 57,000 tons of salt on hand.

When did we buy it and at what price?

We currently take advantage of ODOT contract pricing. The majority of salt on hand was purchased during the 2019-2020 season at an average price of \$72.49/ton.

Will enough salt be available?

At the end of the day, Old Man Winter and Mother Nature dictate the amount of salt that we'll need, but the salt providers are contracted to provide up to 110 percent of our total estimated winter-fill quantity. Our average annual salt usage is approximately 66,000 tons. Between the salt we have on hand currently and the allowable purchase amount, it appears we will have enough salt available to us for even a harsh winter.