

Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes

# WINTER SAFETY

There is no place like Northern New York in the winter (literally!) It is a magical winter wonderland and we want to help prepare you and your family for a safe and comfortable winter season.

## SNOW REMOVAL

Snow and ice are inevitable during the winter months at Fort Drum. Here are some important snow removal responsibilities and tips.

### MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HOMES RESPONSIBILITIES

- Fort Drum Mountain Community Homes contracts with Mainscape Inc. for snow removal and landscape services.
- Mainscape is responsible for removing any snow accumulation from all community roads, sidewalks, and common areas (to include bus stops and mailbox kiosks).
- Snowplows remove snow from the middle of the roads and push it to the right outer edge. This will result in snow at the end of driveways; it happens everywhere and there is just no way to avoid it. Some of this snow will be cleared when sidewalks are completed. Snowplows cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway, as this would leave a pile of snow in the roadway.
- Snow is removed in the following priorities:
  - Main community roads
  - Alleyways
  - Sidewalks and bus stops
  - Fire hydrants
  - Mailbox kiosks
- Priorities may shift based on conditions and school schedules.
- In the event of a major snow event, one initial lane will be cleared on all main roads, with widening to follow as conditions allow.
- Salt is only used on the roads and in front of bus stops/mailbox kiosks. Salt is not used on the sidewalks. There are over 70 miles of sidewalk within our communities and it is not possible to salt them all. Please wear appropriate footwear and exercise caution when walking on sidewalks.

### RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

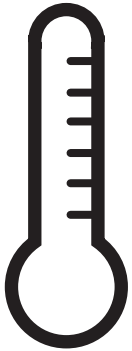
- Residents are responsible for removing any snow accumulation from their driveway, sidewalks, and stairways leading to their home within 24 hours.
- If planning to leave the area for any extended period of time, residents must arrange for snow removal.
- All entrances to the home must be accessible (including back door entrances). In the event of an emergency, it is imperative that safe access is available for emergency services and for the safety of residents.
- It is best to keep up with snow accumulation, if possible. Shoveling three inches is easier than shoveling three feet.
- If you need snow removal assistance, visit our Resident Resources page on our website at [www.fortdrummch.com](http://www.fortdrummch.com).



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- On-street parking is prohibited from November 1 - April 1. Please do not park your vehicle on the streets as this creates a safety hazard and limits snow removal capabilities.
- When parked in your driveway, try to stay as close to the garage as possible during snow events.
- Consider relocating exterior decorations or any items kept outside (i.e., trash and recycle totes).
- Please do not let children play in or on snowbanks by the road. While they may look fun to play in or on, it is extremely dangerous as plows, machinery and traffic come through. Children playing in these areas will delay snow removal efforts. We encourage you to visit the Sledding Hill in Monument Ridge off Indigo Way or the open fields at the Adirondack Creek community center.

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## EXTREME COLD

North Country winters can bring frigid temperatures and wind chills. When temperatures dip below 0 degrees, follow these preventative tips to help keep your home warm and prevent frozen pipes:

- Let your faucets drip.
- Open doors of cabinets and vanities that have sinks.
- Make sure all windows and doors are closed tightly.
- Keep garage doors closed. Only open doors when entering or exiting with your vehicle. If left open for long periods of time, pipes can freeze.
- Keep your heat ON. If your Family leaves the area for any length of time, please be sure to leave your thermostat at a minimum of 60 degrees. This ensures your home stays at a temperature that prevents any frozen water lines.
- Close your common hallway door (where applicable). Your water lines are located in the walls of this hallway.



## PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

Don't wait until it's too late! Winter weather can make driving difficult. Follow the tips below to make sure you are prepared to commute safely.

- Make sure your tires are ready for winter. Check your tread and air pressure often.
- Keep emergency products in your car such as a blanket, water, brush, and ice scraper.
- Brake and excel slowly! Sudden pushes on the gas and brake can cause you to lose control in slippery conditions.
- Expect the unexpected. Lake-effect snow bands can be very unpredictable and can produce heavy snowfall in a short amount of time.
- Make sure you have enough windshield washer fluid.
- Stay off the roads as much as possible during inclement weather.



## INSPECT FOR SUCCESS

Winter weather approaches quickly and we want to help keep you and your family warm and safe this winter season. Here are some tips to prepare your home for winter:

- Change out your air filter every 30-days. Keep the air in your home as filtered and clean as possible to reduce allergens, increase efficiency, and allow your system to heat your home properly.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors every six months. Test the detectors to ensure they are also working properly. Be sure to call maintenance if you feel there are any issues with these products in your home so we can help.
- Familiarize yourself with the water shut off valve in your home so you can stop the water if your pipes burst.
- Going on a trip? Keep your thermostat set at a minimum of 60 degrees to prevent frozen or burst pipes. Always inform your community office of extended away time and put your home on our Home Watch program.
- Remove all hoses from outside spigots.
- Pets should be kept inside as much as possible during cold weather.
- Keep a three-day food supply ready at home. You never know when school or the installation may be closed due to weather.