

## 2016-2017 City of Columbus Winter Preparedness Update

The city of Columbus is gearing up for snow removal for the upcoming winter season.

Employees with the departments of Public Service, Public Utilities and Recreation and Parks are teaming and the snow plows are being readied.

**“For all our residents and businesses, we want to make sure that our city is ready for the upcoming snow season and these preparations will be important to ensure just that,” Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther said. “The winter season always means challenges, but we have a comprehensive and improved plan in place to manage whatever winter may bring.”**

The city has amassed 25,000 tons of road salt, 63,000 gallons of liquid de-icers and anti-icers in preparation for the upcoming snow season.

- Anti-icing is the proactive applying of products to roadways before a snow & ice event. Anti-icing helps prevent snow and ice from bonding to pavement, allowing workers to clear the roads more easily. *Anti-icing can create safer winter conditions and is a more cost-effective alternative to de-icing. Managers cannot rely on one method for de-icing and anti-icing because each chemical and storm is different.*
- De-icing is the application of ice-control products to driving surfaces to melt existing snow and ice. City staff members perform de-icing during and after an event to melt remaining snow and ice.

Along with the use of liquid anti-icers/de-icers the city of Columbus can apply salt brine, a salt and water mixture.

- Brines have the same melting characteristics of solid rock salt, but since it is applied in liquid form, the salt can begin to work immediately. The brines are also more effective in lower temperatures. The use of brines is known as anti-icing or pre-wetting measures.

Every winter storm is different, so the strategy for responding to a specific storm varies from storm to storm. However, each street has a priority:

- Priority 1 roadways include State Routes 33, 104 and 315 and arterial streets
- Priority 2 roadways include collector streets
- Priority 3 roadways include residential streets.

The Ohio Department of Transportation plows and treats I-70, I-71, I-270 and I-670.

Once snow falls, residents are encouraged to go to [warriorwatch.columbus.gov](http://warriorwatch.columbus.gov) to see what city streets have been serviced in the past 72 hours and to check the priority level of their streets.