

State of New Hampshire Winter Maintenance Cost and Fast Facts

The NH Department of Transportation performs winter maintenance operations with **92 patrol crews** dispersed throughout the state in their respective patrol shed locations.

These 92 NHDOT patrol crews maintain **8,997 lane miles of State Highways**. A “lane mile” equals one mile of one lane of travel on a highway. Therefore if someone is traveling south on Interstate 93 through Concord, one mile of south bound highway consists of two lane miles. If someone is traveling west bound on Route 111 each mile of the highway consists of one lane mile west bound and one lane mile east bound. The NHDOT patrol crews operate 340 State trucks statewide and they also supervise the operation of approximately 380 hired trucks statewide that supplement and assist with winter maintenance and snow removal.

How much does it cost the State of New Hampshire to perform winter maintenance for a typical snow storm? **The statewide cost of winter snow removal** on New Hampshire’s highways for a storm **is approximately \$80,000**. This includes all State equipment, hired equipment, labor charges, fuel, salt and sand.

Salt and sand usage is typically averaged over a five-year period to allow for differences in winter severity. For example, the five-year average from the Fall of 2010 to the Spring of 2015 for winter salt and sand usage was **170,500 tons of salt per year**. The average cost of rock **salt for winter 2015-2016 is \$60 per ton**.

NHDOT plows and clears approximately 4 billion cubic feet of snow off of New Hampshire State roadways each year based on an average snow fall accumulation of 66” in the Concord area. To put that in perspective, 4 billion cubic feet of snow laid out in a 1’ x 1’ cross section, would circle the earth approximately 30 times.