

Spring Weight Restrictions

General Information

In the spring, during and after the timeframe when the frost comes out, roadways are in a weakened conditions and are especially susceptible to damage. Spring weights restrictions are a strategy to preserve paved and crushed-rock roadway surfaces during the time when they are most vulnerable to damage. The cost of asphalt resurfacing projects in Washington County typically exceeds \$300,000 per mile, and the taxpayers have made significant investment in our road system. Overweight vehicles during spring load restrictions could literally cause millions of dollars of damage.

Efficient trucking for the movement of goods and materials is critical for our economy and for the livelihood of businesses. The need for efficient commerce must be balanced against the need to protect the taxpayer investment in roadway infrastructure. Most state highways (Interstate, U.S. and Minnesota Trunk Highways) remain at 10-ton axle limits during spring weight restrictions. Many county roads in Washington County have adequate structure and are posted at 9 or 10-ton axle limits during spring weight restrictions, to allow for normal commerce. For those roads that are posted at lower values and on unpaved roads, we ask everyone's cooperation in adhering to the spring weight restriction limits. In most cases, if a road is destroyed there is simply no money available to repair or replace the surfacing – unless funds are diverted from other resurfacing projects – which means a road that had waited its turn doesn't get resurfaced.

See Fact Sheet (page 2) for more information

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Fact Sheet

Washington County spring load restriction information is posted at:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/1827/Road-Maintenance>

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/486/Permits> (under Transportation Permits)

- Washington County follows the spring weight restriction dates set by MnDOT. The dates vary depending on frost and weather conditions.
- During spring weight restrictions, county roads in Washington County are posted according to the Washington County Spring Weight Restrictions Map available at the above webpages.
- Washington County does not issue permits for transport over the axle weight limit during spring weight restrictions, except in cases of a serious public health emergency.
- During spring weight restrictions, on roads that are not posted with specific weight limits, allowable weights under Minnesota law are:
 - 10-tons per axle on paved roads, and
 - 5-tons per axle on unpaved roads (County Roads are paved)
- Most gravel township roads are not specifically posted during spring weight restrictions, so they have a 5-ton axle weight limit during spring weight restrictions.
- Normal allowable weights (not during spring weight restrictions) unless a lower weight limit is posted on the road, under Minnesota law are:
 - 10-tons per axle on paved roads, and
 - 5-tons per axle on unpaved roads