

Spring Load Restrictions

Fact Sheet

- Winona County spring load restriction information is posted at <https://www.co.winona.mn.us/233/Spring-Load-Restrictions>
- Winona County follows the spring load restriction dates set by MnDOT, available at the link on the above webpage. The dates vary depending on frost and weather conditions.
- During spring load restrictions, county roads in Winona County are posted according to the Winona County Spring Load Restrictions Map available on the above webpage.
- Winona County does not issue overweight permits during spring load restrictions.
- During spring load restrictions, on roads that are not posted with specific weight limits, allowable weights under Minnesota law¹ are:
 - 10-tons per axle on paved roads (the same as normal), and
 - 5-tons per axle on unpaved roads.
- Most gravel township roads are not specifically posted during spring load restrictions, so they have a 5-ton axle weight limit during spring load restrictions.
- Normal allowable weights (not during spring load restrictions) are as follows,² unless a lower weight limit is posted on the road:
 - 10-tons per axle on paved roads, and
 - 9-tons per axle on unpaved roads.

General Information:

In the spring, during and after the timeframe when the frost comes out, roadways are in a weakened condition and are especially susceptible to damage. Spring load 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 Winona 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 load restrictions. Many county roads in Winona County have adequate structure and also remain at 10-ton axle limits during spring load restrictions, to allow for normal commerce. For those roads that are posted with lower weight limits and on unpaved roads, we ask everyone's cooperation in adhering to the spring load restriction weight 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.

¹ Minnesota Statutes, [section 169.87, subdivision 2](#)

² Minnesota Statutes, [section 169.823](#)