

State law permits posting roads

In order to protect the infrastructure of public roads, the Washington State Legislature, RCW 46.44.080, authorizes local authorities with respect to public highways under their jurisdiction to impose weight limits due to rain, snow, climatic or other conditions.

Weight Restriction Posting

All restricted roads will be posted and flagged with attached signs listing the following maximum allowable weights per number and size of tires.

TIRE SIZES	GROSS LOAD
6.00	1,400 lbs
6.50	1,600 lbs
7.00	1,800 lbs
7.50	1,800 lbs
8.25	1,900 lbs
9.00	2,250 lbs
10.00	2,750 lbs
11.00 (or over)	3,000 lbs
Tubeless or	Special Tires w/0.5 Markings

TIRE SIZES	GROSS LOAD
6.5	1,500 lbs
7.0	1,600 lbs
8-22.5	1,800 lbs
9-22.5	1,900 lbs
10-22.5	2,250 lbs
11-22.5	2,750 lbs
11-24.5	2,750 lbs
12-22.5	3,000 lbs

Loads in excess of the above specified maximum will be considered in violation. During restriction periods, permission may be granted by the public works department to waive loads in excess of those stated herein.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
210 WEST ALDER
RITZVILLE, WASHINGTON 99169

About Public Works

The Adams County Public Works Department is the county's largest departments. It is the engineering authority for the county and the manager of major infrastructure under the county's jurisdiction. Primary duties include the planning, engineering, design, construction, operation, maintenance and administration of approximately 1,850 miles of county roadways and 130 bridges in the road network.

Roads not under the responsibility of the Adams County Department of Public Works include state routes, such as Highways 26 and 17; incorporated city streets in Ritzville, Othello, Lind, Washtucna or Hatton; and private lanes.

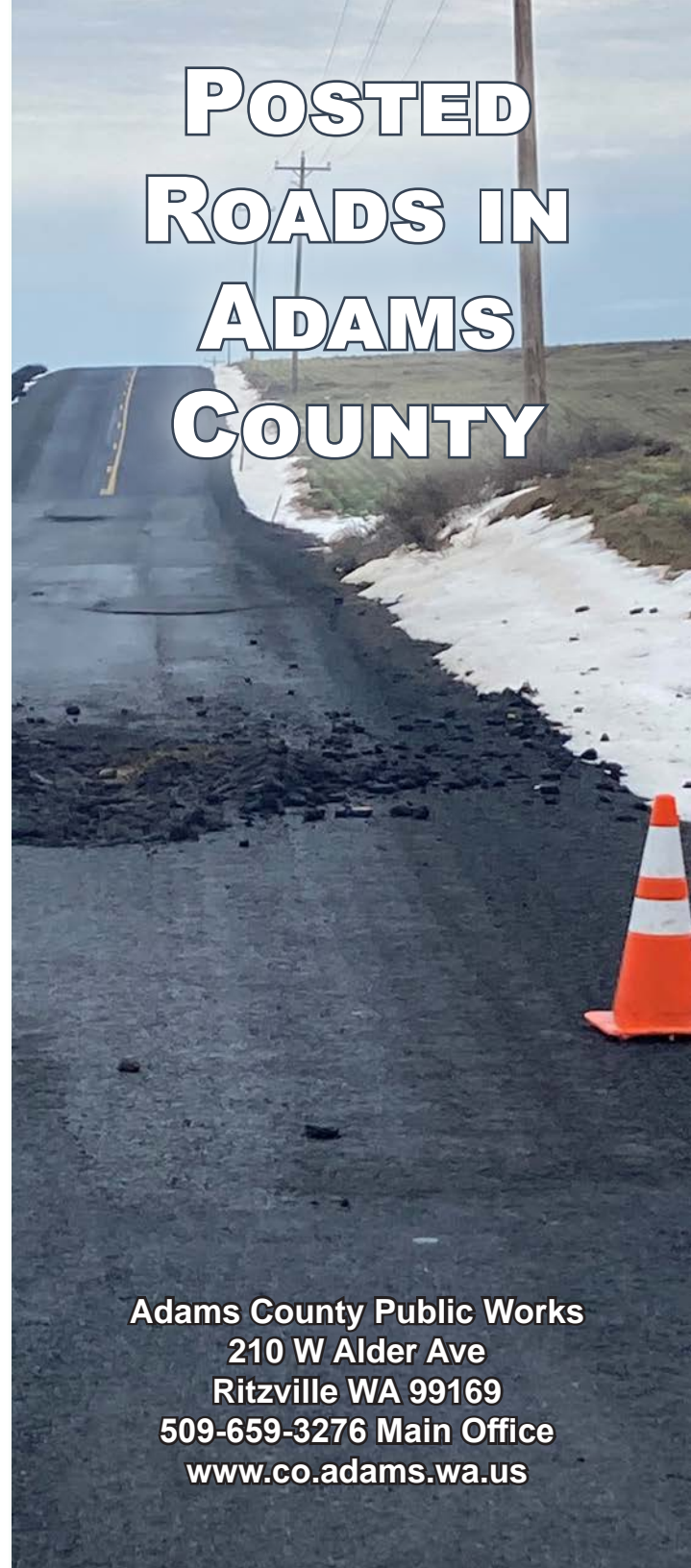
For more information on posted roadways:

County Roads

Adams County Department of Public Works
509-659-3276

Washington State Highways

Washington State Department of Transportation
Motor Carrier Services 360-704-6340

A photograph of a road construction site. The road is dark asphalt, and there is a large pile of dark material on the right side. A traffic cone is visible in the foreground on the right. The background shows a utility pole and a cloudy sky.

**POSTED
ROADS IN
ADAMS
COUNTY**

Adams County Public Works
210 W Alder Ave
Ritzville WA 99169
509-659-3276 Main Office
www.co.adams.wa.us



“Posted Roads” in Adams County

During the winter and spring, some of Adams County’s roads weaken and need to be protected. As temperatures warm and the ground thaws, soil under the pavement becomes saturated with water, making the pavement unstable. As a result, many roads cannot support heavy loads.

To protect loads from serious damage, some roads are posted in order to limit the amount of weight traveling over them. County roads are posted by Adams County Department of Public Works, and other roads are posted by municipalities or the state.

This means that a road that can carry a 15-ton load in the summer or winter may only be able to carry a 5-ton load as it thaws. County roads that are affected by thaws are posted accordingly. The posting is temporary, and is designed to protect a road while it is vulnerable. Repairing or rebuilding a road is expensive, at times costing over \$1

million per mile.

Many roads have been posted for years and these roads are well known to those who use them. However, as roads age and deteriorate, posting is one maintenance strategy that is used to protect them and extend their life.

Why we post

Asphalt roads are at their weakest when the ground begins to thaw and the materials underneath a road’s surface are saturated with moisture. Traveling over roads having a saturated base underneath can cause cracking, potholes and rutting. Heavy trucks can even completely break through asphalt and severely damage a road.

Traveling over posted roads

In some instances, you may travel over posted roads. When a posted road is “solidly frozen,” you may drive over the road. A road is considered “solidly frozen” only when the air temperature is 32°F or below and no water is showing in the cracks of the road. Both conditions must be met. In the spring, these conditions occur frequently at night.

Learn more about what roads are posted

Visit the Department of Public Works’ website, www.co.adams.wa.us/departments/public_works and select Road Closures and Restrictions in the menu.

Posted roads vs. non-posted roads

Not all roads are the same. If money were not an issue, all roads would be built to carry the heaviest legal loads. In Adams County, several roads have been built as ‘all-weather’ roads. However, there are also many miles of road that have never been built to tolerate heavy trucks and day-to-day demands of modern traffic. Since dollars are limited, Adams County prioritizes construction on roads and bridges that have the most traffic and offer the most economic benefit to the county. Unfortunately, it may be many years before many smaller, less-traveled roads are rebuilt. In the meantime, roads must be posted in order to protect and extend the life of the roads.

