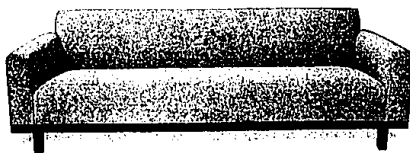
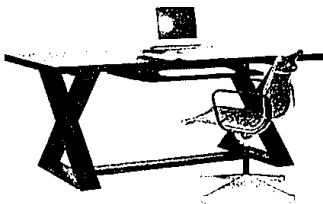
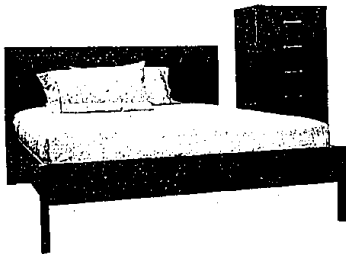
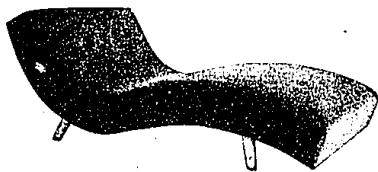
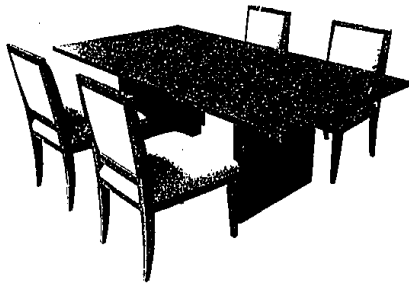


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Chuck Eudy loads a truck with road salt at the City of Farmington DPW yard.

BILL BAESLER / OBSERVER

SNOW

FROM PAGE A1

than half of what the city normally uses - 6,500 tons - is already stored.

The other good news is road salt prices this year are back to their normal levels.

According to Michael Lasley, director of central services, the city paid \$28.65 a ton for salt this year as opposed to \$46.35 last year. The city bids its road salt purchases through an 18-city consortium.

Salt suppliers were claiming a shortage last year, charging nearly double the cost as previous years, said officials from both cities.

Farmington Hills has 18 trucks on hand to handle the snowfall and everyone in the department, from engineers on down, pitches in to help when necessary.

In Farmington, four salt trucks keep the roads safe, said Kevin Gushman, director of public services.

The city has about 600 tons of salt on hand right now and normally goes through an average of 1,200 tons per season, he said.

Farmington went through a state-bidding process for its salt and got it this year for \$24.51 a ton as opposed to last year's figure of \$57 a ton.

NEEDFUL THINGS

Jim Halliday, store manager at the Damman Hardware in the Downtown Farmington Plaza, said about 50 snow shovels were already sold by early Monday afternoon.

Also flying out the door were sodium chloride, salt and roof rakes, which are hard to keep in stock because of their newfound popularity, he said. Keeping snow off of rooftops reduces the chance of ice dams forming.

"We also see an increase in jumper cables, window scrapers, key de-icers and such."

Dave and Mary Ellen Larsen of Farmington Hills were at the Damman Hardware looking to replace a snow shovel with a broken handle.

"We want one that's not too

heavy," said Mary Ellen, adding they have a snow removal service, but still need a shovel for the lighter jobs.

"Let's take this one," she said of the simple model with a straight wooden bar and a metal scoop.

Farmington Hills Police and Michigan State Police said no major injuries were reported during Monday's snowfall, though it caused dozens of spin-outs, fender-benders and cars veering off roadways in

the area.

Michigan State Police Trooper Cynthia Edwards said when it snows, drivers need to remind themselves to slow down, make sure the vehicle's windows are clear and keep the window washing fluid dispenser full.

"Make sure you leave in enough time," she said. "And be patient."

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Frank Gariepy sizes up a new snow shovel at Damman Hardware in downtown Farmington.



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