

What we do

The Council's emergency winter maintenance service operates 24 hours a day and has direct links to the Met Office.

The main objective of our Winter Service is to keep the roads safe for users and reduce delays caused by bad weather.

Our priority salting network comprises of 260 miles of key routes which is a total of 38% of the entire maintained road network. The map overleaf shows the roads that are routinely salted.

The width for safe passing of our gritting lorries is 2.745 metres (9'0") for gritting and 3.350 metres (11'0") for snow ploughing.

Snow ploughing currently takes place on main roads first and then secondary roads.

During periods of heavy snowfall local farmers with snow ploughs are enlisted to support the Council.

Car parks, heavily used footways and shopping centres will be salted as soon as resources permit



When we salt

Decisions are based on road temperatures rather than air temperatures provided through forecast information tailored to the roads in Bath and North East Somerset.

Factors such as rainfall, moisture, heat retention and time of day or night will influence the decision and the time we salt the roads. Wherever possible these are carried out to avoid evening or morning peak traffic periods as frost and ice do not normally affect road surfaces until late evening or early morning.

Useful Links:

Gritting Routes and Grit Bin Maps

<http://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/>

Government Advice

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

<http://transportwinterresilience.independent.gov.uk/>

Council Connect

Web:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit/>

Email:

councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Telephone:

01225 39 40 41

Text (SMS):

07797 806545

The contact centre is open:

Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 8am - 6pm

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 6pm

Sat & Sun: closed

Out of office hours there are various pre-recorded messages and email options available for you to access more information.



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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Winter Weather

Advice for self help
and a safe journey



Making Bath & North East Somerset an
even better place to live, work and visit

Grit Bins

There are approximately 400 grit bins located across Bath and North East Somerset.

The bins are filled by the Council at the start of the winter season to be used by local communities to assist with snow and ice clearance on the public highway.

**Requests for bin refills should be made to Council
Connect Tel 01225 394041**



Using grit bins effectively

- The rock salt in the bin is most effective when spread before the snow falls.
- If snow has already fallen, clear it before spreading salt.
- Mixing small amounts of grit/ sand to the salt is more effective during snow fall.
- Spread salt thinly, one table spoon is enough to treat 1 square metre.
- Sweep any spilt salt over as large an area as possible.
- Attempt to create a safe route through a path/ street, rather than clearing the full width of a road.
- Beware of traffic, wear bright clothes and work with neighbours if possible.
- Don't spread salt in the rain – it will wash off the road.
- If a bin is empty, use table salt instead.

Keep in touch with local weather forecasts so that the best time for spreading can be determined.

View our grit bin maps at

<http://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/>

Winter Driving

We have many hills in Bath and North East Somerset. The following advice should assist your travel during the winter months:

- Plan your journey on main roads and bus routes. These will usually be salted. Avoid short cuts.
- Listen to local radio for weather and traffic information and plan for the full length of your journey.
- Always carry spare, warm, waterproof clothing in case you breakdown or get snowed in.
- Ensure your tyres are in good condition and properly inflated. Make sure your vehicle is in good working order.
- Park with the rear of the car facing into the wind to prevent drifting snow or chill winds penetrating the engine bay.
- Many vehicles today have external temperature warning lights indicating when temperatures may present hazardous driving conditions, when activated drive accordingly.
- Tell somebody your journey plans and carry a mobile phone.
- If you get stuck or break down, stay with your vehicle if it is safe to do so, it will be easier to provide you with assistance. Ring for assistance.
- If you must leave the vehicle. Leave it where it won't block other road users, gritters and emergency services. Let somebody know your plans and leave a note of your contact number clearly visible on the inside of the windscreen.

Useful Items to have in your car during the winter months:

- Warning triangle; ice scrapper/de-icer; a warm coat/blanket; a first aid kit; a good torch and spare batteries; a tow rope; bottled drinking water; a recovery service contact number and hands free mobile phone; jump leads; and a shovel.

Helping yourself and others

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. See the useful links for further information.

There are a number of actions local residents can undertake to improve the condition of their street during snowfall and icy conditions.

Clear the snow or ice early in the day - It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

Use salt or sand - not water - If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. You can prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared.

Take care where you move the snow - When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Look after yourself - Work as a team with neighbours if possible. Wear warm, brightly coloured clothes that make you visible to road users. Work at a suitable pace for your level of fitness and take appropriate steps to prevent back and muscle injuries. Avoid working in the road if possible.

Be a good neighbour - If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well.

Keep it tidy - When you finish spreading salt close the lid on the grit bin to keep the salt dry and make sure that you don't leave tools and brushes etc. in the street.

Winter Maintenance Gritting Routes

Scale 1: 75,000
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Bath & North East
Somerset Council

