

Advice for winter driving

Before you begin your journey:

- listen to the latest weather and road reports on local radio stations
- allow extra time for your journey
- check the condition of your lights, wipers, tyres, battery and coolant
- consider fitting your vehicle with winter tyres, especially if you live or travel in remote areas
- avoid travelling in severe weather unless your journey is essential.

Drive according to the weather conditions:

- be aware that some rural roads are not salted, where possible, drive on main roads
- keep your distance from the vehicle in front
- take extra care when passing cyclists and pedestrians
- avoid sudden braking or steering; this could lead to skidding
- do not enter flooded areas or areas where ice may be covering water
- be prepared for delays and always drive with due care.

We recommend that you carry the following in your vehicle:

- de-icer spray and an ice scraper
- First Aid Kit
- battery jump leads.

For longer journeys we advise you to take extra clothing, a mobile phone, a hot drink in a flask and a shovel. Ensure you have plenty of fuel.

Do not use your mobile phone while driving. Stop somewhere safe, or ask a passenger to make the call.

Advice for pedestrians and cyclists

- Wear suitable footwear and clothing.
- Bear in mind that we only salt and clear snow from heavily used footways and cycle routes.
- Take extra care when using, approaching or crossing roads; motorists may not be able to stop as quickly as normal.

Local radio stations

Beacon	97.2 and 103.1 FM
BBC Radio Shropshire	96.0 FM
Sunshine	855 AM
Telford FM	107.4 FM
Severn Radio	106.5 and 107.1 FM

MeteoGroup

www.meteogroup.co.uk 0207 963 75 75

Highways Agency

(M54, A5 west of Telford, A49 south of Shrewsbury, A458 west of A5, A483.)
www.highways.gov.uk 08457 50 40 30

Telford & Wrekin Council

www.telford.gov.uk 01952 380000

Shropshire Council

www.shropshire.gov.uk 0345 678 9000

Highway Maintenance website -

www.shropshire.gov.uk/hwmaint.nsf

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winter maintenance service

We maintain a network of approximately 5,100 kilometres of roads and 1,200 kilometres of footways and cycle routes. The main priority of our winter maintenance service is to make our roads safe for public use. We also aim to minimise delays and the subsequent economic impacts of winter weather.

This leaflet provides an overview of our winter maintenance service, together with our contact details and advice for winter driving.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of trunk roads and motorways. Telford & Wrekin Council maintain roads in their area. The contact details of both organisations are also provided at the end of this leaflet.

Our winter maintenance service

We carry out the following winter maintenance activities on our roads:

- 'pre-salting' to help prevent ice forming,
- 'post-salting' to melt ice and snow already formed,
- snow ploughing and/or blowing to remove snow,
- maintaining salt bins.

Salting operations

We pre-salt over one quarter of our network as a precaution when ice and snow is predicted. These priority roads are referred to as the defined network.



The defined network consists of:

- all A and B roads
- localised high risk sites and important access routes
- major town centre shopping areas
- heavily used footways and cycle routes.

Please be aware that many rural roads are not treated. If heavy snow is forecast, pre-salting may be extended to include other main roads, town and large village centres, and industrial estates. It is impossible for us to keep our roads completely clear of ice and snow. Rain or groundwater can freeze anytime of the day. Snow can become compacted before it can be removed, and make roads hazardous to drive on. We carry out post-salting to melt ice and snow in these conditions.

Snow clearance

Snow over 50mm deep is removed by ploughing. We undertake ploughing in priority order, beginning with the defined network. At least one main access route to towns and large villages will be cleared as soon as practicable. We also deploy snow blowers to remove heavy snowfall during severe weather.

Weather forecasts

The MeteoGroup use roadside sensors to provide us with 24 hour weather forecasts and predictions of ice and snow on Shropshire's roads.

In addition, we employ a technique called 'thermal mapping' to predict which parts of the network will be at highest risk of ice forming based on weather forecasts. This enables us to assess more accurately when pre-salting is required.

Coordinating our winter maintenance service

Our winter maintenance service is coordinated by officers located in five divisional offices across the county. Our divisional officers receive weather forecasts and notify our contractor if winter maintenance is required; this may be at any time of the day or night. Salting vehicles are normally on the roads within one hour of notification and salting completed within three hours.

Resources

Our winter maintenance fleet includes:

- salting vehicles, with snow ploughing blades
- footway ploughs
- snow blowers

In addition, many contractors and farmers have snow clearing equipment. Our divisional officers deploy this supplementary equipment following heavy snowfall in rural areas.

We maintain salt bins throughout the winter period. We also provide salt and grit mixtures in bags and heaps at various rural locations throughout the winter. These are provided for your use.



Advice for clearing snow and ice from footways

Roads and highways

Highways maintenance

Winter road maintenance

Advice for clearing snow and ice from footways

- Do work from the footway at all times and towards oncoming traffic wherever possible
- Do place the snow on the verge or grassed areas
- Do place snow at edges of footways next to the road, this helps to form a safety barrier between cars and pedestrians

Related information

Clearing snow and ice advice from gov.uk

- Do put sand or ash down on cleared areas as it will provide grip
- Do use grit/salt from grit bins sparingly
- Do not obstruct accesses or footpaths with the snow
- Do not use grit/salt from highway grit bins on private property – that is theft
- Do not use a lot of salt – a teaspoon of salt per square metre will defrost ice patches
- Do not lift too much snow at one time: Compacted snow can be very heavy
- Do not use hot water to melt ice or snow – it may refreeze to form "black ice"
- Do not work in blizzard conditions

If an accident did occur, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful
- use common sense to make sure that you do not make the footway or pathway clearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

When working outside

- Wrap up warm
- Wear suitable footwear
- Do not work in the dark
- Beware of hypothermia and wind chill effects
- Wear light coloured clothing and a reflective coat if available.

The law on clearing snow and ice

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the footway outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. This includes both public roads and footways.

ICE and SNOW

We are already receiving enquiries relating to winter and we recommend the council should consider the following;

- A written risk assessment should be carried out and kept on council files.
- The council should take reasonable care to ensure the safety of the public, employees and volunteers.
- All employees and volunteers should be made aware that the clearance of snow and ice could be a seven-days-a-week task (including bank holidays), receive adequate training, and wear the appropriate protective clothing.
- We recommend that the council communicates its plans to the community. This can be via a website, newsletter, noticeboard or published minutes of a meeting. If plans change this should also be communicated effectively.
- Once a clearance programme is implemented, it should be maintained for the whole period of adverse weather and plans to manage the process communicated.
- Where a council takes on the responsibility for clearing snow or ice from paths, it should exercise reasonable care in doing so. Care should be taken in deciding where to move the snow – making sure entrances, side roads or drains are not blocked. Clear the middle of the path first so that there is a safe surface on which to walk.
- After the snow and ice has been cleared do not use water as this may cause black ice. Use salt or grit on the treated areas.
- Also, if the building is to be used over the winter months the council needs to ensure that 'users' can enter and leave the building safely which means that if they are not gritting the paths or car park the building should be closed for that period.