

Snow clearing guide

1. Prepare your pavement

If you know it is likely to snow:
Pre-treat your pavement. Keep the salt and clearing materials in a location that will remain accessible during snow.

2. Prepare yourself

- Wear warm clothing and suitable footwear.
- Wear a reflective vest/jacket if working near a road.
- Inform someone how long you intend to be and take a mobile phone with you.
- Inform friends and family of any changes in location or return time.

3. Clear a path

- Clear the snow in the morning before people start walking and compacting the snow.
- Do NOT use water! Take care when moving snow
- Deposit snow in verges or front gardens, NOT in drainage gullies.
- Be a good neighbour, offer to clear neighbours' paths.

Cirencester Town Council

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Information about Cirencester Town Council
Community Response, including the Winter
Maintenance MoU & Agreement:
www.cirencester.gov.uk

Quick Guide

- * Pre-salt pathways before snow
- * Clear the snow & ice early in the day
- * Use salt or sand, not water
- * Take care when you move the snow
- * Check on welfare of neighbours
- * Offer to clear neighbours paths

Need More Information?

Gloucestershire County Council

Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2TG
01452 425 000
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Highways:

08000 514 514 (24hr)

For information on gritted roads:

https://gis.gloucestershire.gov.uk/LocalViewPub/Sites/WINTER_GRIT_EXT/

GCC Adverse Weather Plan:

http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2323/adverse_weather_plan_2015-16_final-35946.pdf

For live updates, follow on Twitter:

@GCC and
@GlosRoads

Cotswold District Council

Trinity Road, Cirencester GL7 1PX
01285 623 000 (Office Hours)
Or
Tel: 0151 343 2942 (24 hrs).
www.cotswold.gov.uk



Snow & Ice Guide

A simple guide to snow clearance



Photo: Chris Hailstone

Statutory Responsibilities

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), as the Highway Authority, is under a duty to maintain the highway, so far as is reasonably practicable, in a safe condition such that safe passage along a Highway for the travelling public is not endangered by snow or ice (Highways Act 1980 Section 41.1a). The adverse weather service is provided on behalf of GCC by Amey Gloucestershire. The extent of the service provided will vary depending upon the severity and nature of adverse weather conditions and resources availability.

In practice GCC aims to safeguard the travelling public from the hazardous effects of snow or ice or other adverse weather conditions so far as it is practicably able to with the resources available. Proactive winter maintenance and other emergency operations will normally be undertaken based upon available weather forecast information, knowledge of prevailing local weather conditions and resource availability.

Town Council Support

Cirencester Town Council has resources which, during times of adverse weather, may be available in order to provide assistance to GCC, e.g. in gritting footways, refilling grit bins and when able to clear snow from footways/pedestrian areas.

During adverse winter weather situations GCC's priority and resources are focused on keeping the strategic carriageway network running; assistance from the Town Council will provide a level of support to the local community.

Community Support

Communities, property owners and businesses can help themselves and improve the safety of their localities by undertaking simple snow clearing activities as soon as snow falls. By working together as local residents, with the Town Council and community volunteers, we will hopefully minimise the impact of any adverse weather conditions.

The Town Council will act as a liaison point between the community and the appropriate Community Group.

The Snow Code

Be Careful! Don't be afraid to clear paths in fear someone will get injured. There is no law to prevent the clearing of snow outside your house or the pavement. Occupiers of properties have a legal responsibility to ensure their paths are safe to prevent visitor injuries. People walking on snow and ice have the responsibility to be careful. Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze.

Remember: salt DOES NOT remove snow or compacted ice. Using lots of salt is unnecessary, wasteful, and harmful to the environment.

Gritting and clearing pavements and residential areas:

What can I use?

- Grit and sharp sand
- Dishwasher salt
- Table salt
- Soda crystals

Suitable tools

- Plastic lightweight shovel
- Regular shovel (however the snow will stick and be less efficient)
- Domestic grass seed spreader
- Scoop or trowel
- Wheelbarrow to move tools or snow

How much salt? Less than you think! A small handful should clear and protect 1m (3ft) of surface. Therefore to treat 400m (1320ft) of pavement, a 20kg bag of salt will be sufficient.

How to grit your path

- Clearing snow enables the sun to aid the melting and evaporation process throughout the day. Salt helps prevent the re-freezing of water that can create black ice
- Clear a path using a shovel and remove the snow. Place salt on a small trowel and shake some off as you walk along, alternatively, use a seed spreader for quicker, more efficient spreading.

Tackling compacted snow

- Provide traction for people walking over compacted snow by spreading sand that will become embedded and provide grip.
- Use coarse, cheap sand, such as builder's sand, cat litter, or cinders. Remember to sweep the pavement after the thaw has occurred.

Look after yourself

Clearing snow is hard work, so ensure you take plenty of breaks and know when to stop. Wear suitable clothing, including boots and warm waterproof clothing.

