



# Keep Cardiff moving through the winter

Cardiff Council has plans in place to ensure the city is kept moving during the winter period as well as tips on how you can look after yourself and your family during periods of bad weather.

At the start of the season, the Council will have over the recommended amount of salt stock available. This is more than the Welsh Local Government Association recommendation that Councils should hold one and a half times the average amount of salt used annually during the last six years.

## Which roads are salted?

With approximately 600 miles of roads across Cardiff, it is not possible for all roads to be treated with salt when ice or snow is forecast, so following consultation with transport providers, the police and emergency services, the Council has identified a priority network of routes that will be pre-salted when freezing conditions are forecast.

This network comprises all principal roads, the majority of B roads, some C roads, and other non-classified roads. Cycle routes will only be treated where they form part of the carriageway which is on a designated salting route. A list of roads that will be pre-salted can be found on the Council's website: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

## Are any footpaths salted?

A limited network of footways will be salted when ice or snow is forecast. A priority list of footways has been developed and the highest priority, which is based on footfall, are the main pedestrianised areas in the city centre. These will be pre-treated when local surface temperatures are forecast to fall below zero.

Further details on footway salting can be found on the Council's website: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

## How is salting done?

Resources are on stand-by 24 hours a day during the winter period (between November and March inclusive) to ensure that salting can be undertaken promptly once it is needed. The Council uses a brand new fleet of 9 vehicles to spread

salt on the roads following prescribed routes. The vehicles are also fitted with ploughs to help with clearing snow from roads if needed.

## What is done to minimise the impact of salt upon the environment?

The salting of roads is essential to keep Cardiff moving, when snow, ice or frost is forecast. However, the Council also recognises that salt may have an adverse impact upon the environment if not properly managed.

The Council aims to ensure all salt is accurately spread at the appropriate rates to address the forecast weather conditions. The new fleet of gritting vehicles are calibrated to ensure maximum efficiency of salt spread.

## How will the Council clear snow from the highway?

The time taken to return roads to a serviceable condition will be highly dependent upon a number of factors including the amount of snow, type of snow, and continuing weather conditions, in particular temperatures and further snowfall.

The Council's priority will be principal roads and once these have been cleared, the remainder of the pre-salted network will be tackled.

Several cycle routes will be treated where they form part of the carriageway which is part of a designated salting route. It is important that all road users take extra care at times when winter weather conditions are being experienced.

A limited network of footways will be treated when snow has fallen. A priority list of footways has been developed and the highest priority, which is based on footfall, is the main pedestrianised area within the city centre and district shopping centres. Further details on footway salting can be found on the Council's website: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

During periods of disruption caused by snow, the Council will ensure extra in-house resources to help with the winter maintenance work required to return its highway network to a serviceable state as soon as possible are in place. Additional external resources will also be deployed if and as necessary.

## Does the Council have a policy for providing salt bins?

There are currently more than 400 salt containers located across Cardiff and the locations can be found on the Council's website [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

Each container is checked and refilled prior to the start of the winter season. Any that are found to be damaged are replaced as necessary.

These salt containers are provided for use by members of the public and also the emergency services on the adopted highway, but not on private driveways, footways and the like.

It is important to note that the Council cannot provide a container if it does not meet the agreed criteria. When a request for a salt container is received, the location will be assessed in line with these criteria. The Council has prepared guidance for the use of salt from salt containers. This can be found on the Council's website [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

It should be noted that salt containers may be removed following repeated reports of damage or vandalism. Containers are inspected and refilled if needed after periods of prolonged frost or snow, or on request.

# The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

The Government has prepared a 'Snow Code' which provides advice on the clearance of snow and ice from pavements.

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. Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely.

## CLEAR THE SNOW OR ICE EARLY IN THE DAY

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has been compacted

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.

## PREVENT SLIPS

Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But

don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

## USE SALT OR SAND - NOT WATER

If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice.

Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery. You can prevent black ice by spreading some salt

on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear.

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

## 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.

## OFFER TO CLEAR YOUR NEIGHBOURS' PATHS

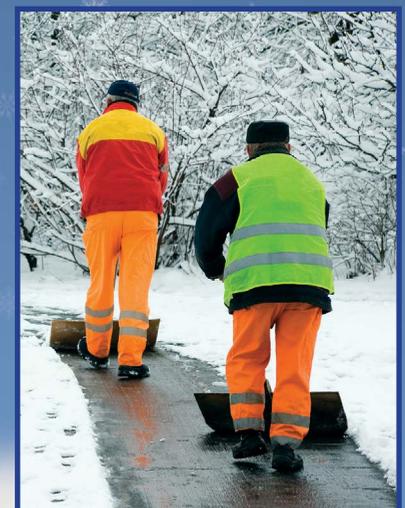
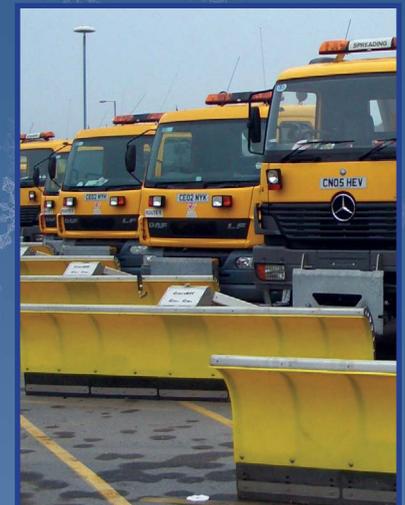
If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact your local council.

## Snow Event Information and Tips - There are many small steps you can take to prepare for a snow event and keep yourself informed when snow does come...

- 1) First of all know it is coming – Ensure you keep a close eye on weather forecasts on television, listen to local radio or go to the met office website for local forecasts and weather warnings.
- 2) If you intend travelling in snow conditions, ask yourself:
  - Is your journey essential?
  - Have you checked the weather forecast and road conditions and carefully considered the advice given?
  - Does anyone know where you are going and when you hope to arrive?
  - Would taking warm clothing, hot drinks, food, Wellingtons, a torch and shovel be a wise precaution?
  - Are you travelling appropriately for the road conditions?
  - Are you using dipped headlights in poor visibility and snow?
  - Are you driving in the highest gear possible and avoiding harsh braking and acceleration?
  - Are you maintaining a safe stopping distance?
- 3) Listen in to local radio or consult the Cardiff Council website to find out if your child's school is open or closed. Or visit [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ismyschoolopen](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ismyschoolopen)
- 4) Does your area have a community plan to deal with emergencies?
  - Is there a community group that can assist during severe weather?
  - For information on community planning go to the Cardiff Council website and click on Emergency Management.
- 5) Check on those in your family and community who are vulnerable during snow and cold weather.
- 6) Ensure you are prepared for dealing with any snow. The Council is able to provide at cost a number of items of equipment to assist citizens and businesses dealing with snow. These items are as follows:
  - Pedestrian gritter (collect) £1,200
  - Salt container empty green 200kg (collect) £175
  - Salt container green 200kg (filled red salt & delivered) £285
  - Refill container 200kg (delivered) £100
  - Salt container empty green 400kg (collect) £180
  - Salt container green 400kg (filled red salt & delivered) £300
  - Refill installed container 400kg (delivered) £120
  - Digga 2 piece lightweight shovel (collect) £30
  - 20kg bag rocksalt (collect) £12
  - 1 tonne of rocksalt red loose (loaded onto customers flatbed) £120

If you would like to purchase any items of equipment please send your request in writing, including a telephone number or email for contact, to Cardiff Council Highway Operations Room 301 County Hall Cardiff Council CF10 4UW

Or email your request to [c2c@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:c2c@cardiff.gov.uk)



## Useful Contact Details

We will keep our website up to date with the latest service information during severe weather so please visit [www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/winterweather)

Follow us on Twitter for service updates @cardiffcouncil

Call Connect to Cardiff (C2C) on 029 2087 2087, opening hours Mon to Fri 08:30-18:00, email [c2c@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:c2c@cardiff.gov.uk)

If you call when closed you will hear a message that gives emergency contact telephone numbers.

Met Office: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>