

Winter Gritting and Road Maintenance by Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) carries out precautionary gritting and salting on 3,008 kilometres (1,869 miles) of Lincolnshire's roads and highways, including all major traffic routes and A and B roads. A treated link is provided from each main village to each major traffic route and every primary and secondary school in Lincolnshire has a salted route which goes to within 500 yards of its entrance and, in most cases, passes its gates. Where possible, a treated link is provided to within 500 metres of all main NHS hospitals and all train and bus stations. LCC also undertakes snow clearing when snow falls and settles to depths likely to cause disruption to transport, whilst the Highways Agency also carries out precautionary salting on all 92 kilometres (52 miles) of trunk roads in Lincolnshire, including on the A1, the A52 Grantham/Nottingham and the A46 west of Lincoln. No other roads will be treated apart from where roads are impassable due to severe snow conditions or during prolonged icy spells.

When will roads be gritted?

Between 1st October and 30th April each year, LCC monitors 10 roadside weather stations 24 hours a day and uses Met Office forecasts to predict when action is needed to keep the roads safe. Once the decision is made to grit the county's roads, gritting takes place at various times to grit either before ice has set or once snow has settled so that it has the best chance of working.

How can I add a road to your gritting routes?

If you would like to request that a road be added to our gritting routes for the following year, please submit your request by e-mail to LCCHighwaysNorth@lincolnshire.gov.uk saying why you feel that road should be added to the gritting route. Please note we are only able to review requests between April and September so that we can review the likely impact of any changes before winter begins.

Gritting pavements and footways

While LCC cannot routinely salt footways, we do treat some priority footpaths during severe weather and work closely with a range of local organisations that help treat some footways themselves. Where resources are available to clear pavements, we must prioritise the steepest and most well-used areas, while in lower priority residential areas and side streets we encourage residents to clear snow and ice themselves.

Advice on clearing snow and ice yourself

- ✱ Start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to clearing compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- ✱ Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- ✱ Be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.

- * If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- * Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on.
- * Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it.
- * Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients.
- * Use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however, you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- * If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces: If I clear snow and ice myself, will I be sued if someone has an accident?

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have a responsibility to be careful themselves. If an accident did happen, it is highly unlikely you would be sued as long as you are careful and use common sense to make sure you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before by, for example, throwing down hot water which would then re-freeze.

Grit bins

To help with clearing pavements and footways, LCC provides and refills almost 1,900 grit bins for the public and parish and town councils to use.

WELTON-BY-LINCOLN PARISH COUNCIL

In the event of a heavy snowfall the parish council will endeavour to clear the footpaths around the centre of the village to enable residents to access the shops, surgery and Co-op. If time and grit allow, we will then clear other areas such as the routes to the schools and village hall.