

What you can do:

- * Check your local bus route and try to use public transport where possible
- * Grit the pavement outside where you live
- * Clear snow from the pavement where you live
- * Grit the pavements and clear snow from where your neighbours live
- * Help the vulnerable
- * Tell us when grit bins are almost empty
- * Work with volunteer organisations
- * Prepare your car
- * Take the weather and road conditions into account when driving



Gloucestershire gritting facts

We have over **4,800** grit bins across Gloucestershire for the public to use

Salt only works on temperatures above **-8°C**. Below this, grit is used

We have **33** gritters working across the county

It takes approximately **3 hours** to grit our Key Routes

12 weather stations across the county monitor conditions **24 / 7 / 365**

For more information

If you have any questions please email our Customer Contact Centre at www.gcchighways@amey.co.uk

The county council's highway crews work around the clock every day of the year to keep Gloucestershire safe and moving. Visit our dedicated web page at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter or follow us on Twitter for real time updates @GlosRoads and look out for the hashtag #highways365 for the latest updates.

To report an issue please go to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit

In emergency situations, call **08000 514 514**

We are proud to support the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership's commitment to work with everyone to ensure each journey made is as safe as possible. Sharing the road and thinking about each other's needs, being patient and considerate will result in peaceful and happy communities.

If you are a resident or business and want to know how the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership can support you, visit www.roadsafety-gloucestershire.org.uk



What we grit

Gloucestershire grits 1,000 miles of the county's 3,300 miles of roads. We grit the roads in a priority order called Key Routes and Secondary Routes

Key Routes

Key Routes are the main arterial A and B roads which link to major towns, cities and the motorway network. They also provide access to key emergency facilities such as hospitals and fire stations.

When freezing temperatures are predicted, we precautionary grit the Key Routes, some strategic public transport routes, the majority of secondary schools and roads serving main shopping centres.

To view a map of the routes and to search to see if your road is a Key Route, visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter

Secondary Routes

During prolonged severe winter weather conditions, when time allows and resources are available, treatments may also be carried out on the secondary road network. Secondary Routes are the other main routes, such as bus routes, link roads, roads where key public services facilities (such as schools, GP surgeries and care homes) are located and rural routes serving less populated areas.

What we don't treat

We do not treat every road in the county and we do not clear snow from residential pavements. We also don't grit cycle lanes that do not form part of the Key or Secondary Routes.

We are not responsible for treating roads managed by Highways England. In Gloucestershire, this includes:

- * A417 and A419 (Gloucester to Swindon including Crickley Hill)
- * A40 (over to Lea)
- * M5 and M50.





How do we know when to grit?

When any of our 12 weather stations across the county or our forecasting services predict that temperatures are due to drop below freezing, we begin to prepare our fleet of gritters to start treating Key routes at the most appropriate time. In addition to the county's weather stations, we also have sight of three stations belonging to neighbouring Authorities at Birdlip, Castle Eaton and Lechlade.

We use the temperature of the road, not the air, to tell us whether we need to send the gritters out. That's why you sometimes find ice on your car windscreen but the roads are not treated.

We don't always grit all of our routes as sometimes forecasts indicate that the temperatures in one area will drop colder than another (in higher parts of the county, for example). We may also stagger start times based on the weather forecast.

We try and carry out gritting when the roads are least busy, usually during the night when temperatures are at their lowest and avoiding peak traffic, which is why you may not see us. However, during bad weather we may have to grit at other times, which can be around the clock in heavy snow or severe conditions.

How are the roads treated when it snows?

If we receive a forecast of snow, we will usually send out our fleet of gritters to apply grit to the Key routes before the snow is due to fall. If heavy snow falls, snow ploughs are fitted to the gritters so that snow can be cleared from the roads. It's important to remember that even though grit is applied to the road before snow is due to fall, it will

not necessarily prevent snow from settling if there is heavy snow fall, and that grit is more effective once it has been driven into the road surface by vehicle tyres.

We also have a network of Parish snow plough operators who help us to keep roads clear in rural areas

Grit bins

We have over 4,800 grit bins across the county for members of the public to use and these are checked and filled at the start of each winter season. Please note that you can use grit from any of the 4,800 bins across the county for treating pavements and local roads.

We are not taking any more requests for grit bins this year and their locations and usage will be monitored over the winter months.

Remember...

- * Although we work to make the roads safer, you are responsible for driving according to the weather conditions
- * Never assume a road has been gritted and beware of black ice
- * Try not to abandon your cars in the middle of the road in snowy conditions and try to leave enough road space for our gritters to get through.

Are you prepared?

During winter, we also need your help. We are prepared and we need you to do the same. Follow this tick list to make sure you are ready for the winter:

- ✓ Check your tyre pressure and thread depths - including the spare wheel
- ✓ Make sure your lights are working and are clean
- ✓ Top up your antifreeze if needed - a garage can check this for you
- ✓ Inspect your wiper blades to make sure that they're in good condition
- ✓ Fill up your screenwash with a product that will prevent freezing
- ✓ Ensure your car battery is in good condition as cold-weather driving will make extra demands on it
- ✓ Have a winter emergency kit ready in your car, including ice scraper and de-icer, torch, warm clothes and a blanket, boots, first aid kit, a shovel and food and a warm drink when travelling in winter weather.

Before setting off

- * Consider whether your journey is essential
- * Check the weather forecast for your outward and return journeys
- * Plan your route and allow more time than usual
- * Wear appropriate clothing and footwear and carry extra warm clothing in case your journey is interrupted.

Driving tips

- * Watch your speed, particularly in icy conditions
- * Keep your distance - it takes much longer to stop in ice and snow
- * Try to anticipate the actions of other drivers
- * Avoid harsh acceleration, steering or braking
- * Keep in as high a gear as possible.

Travelling on foot

Suitable clothing and footwear is vital. We would recommend that you wear walking boots and use public transport where possible.

Help your community

You can help to keep your local area free of ice and snow by helping to clear it from pavements and by helping your neighbours.

You can clear snow from pavements yourself and it is unlikely that you'll be held responsible if someone is injured on a pavement if you have cleared it carefully. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves

For information and advice about how to clear snow from pavements safely, visit www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter/out-and-about/the-snow-code