The Snow Code
How to clear snow and ice

Thank you for volunteering to be a Southend-on-Sea Borough Snow Warden. We hope that the following information will assist you in your role.

Clear snow and ice as early in the day as possible - It’s easier to move fresh, loose snow.

If it is a sunny day remove the top layer of snow in the morning so that any sunshine helps to melt the ice beneath. You can then cover with salt/grit before nightfall to prevent refreezing overnight.

Offer to clear your neighbours’ paths - if your neighbour has difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice for them. Check that any vulnerable neighbours are safe in the cold weather, and if you are worried about them try contacting their relatives or friends.

You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself - so don’t be deterred from helping. It’s unlikely that you’ll be sued or held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you’ve cleared it carefully (Source: www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway).

Steps and steep pathways - pay extra attention when clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you may need to use more salt/grit on these areas.

Use salt/grit or sand – not water. Using water to melt the snow may cause it to refreeze and turn to black ice, so don’t make the pathways more dangerous by using water.

You can prevent black ice from forming by spreading salt on the area you have cleared – about a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may harm them. If you don’t have enough salt or sand then ash will provide a good grip underfoot, but won’t necessarily stop the path from freezing over.

Think ahead – Before you start, think about where you will put the snow you have cleared. Take care so as not to block paths or drains. Make sure a path is made down the middle of the area to be cleared so you have a clear surface to walk on, then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Where can I find out more information about what I can do in an emergency?

The Preparing for Emergencies pages on Gov.uk contain useful information about preparing for the impacts of all emergencies. Please visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies
Snow Warden Pledge

I pledge to:

Only use my supplies for the benefit of the wider community

Adhere to the Council’s advisory information sheet “The Snow Code”

Provide my email address/contact details to receive Southend-on-Sea Borough Council updates and provide confirmation of the community activity I have undertaken

Check and report on local salt grit bins that need refilling

Sign: ________________________ Date: ________________________

Print name: ________________________ Email: ________________________

Address: ________________________ Tel: ________________________

Thank you and welcome to the team!

For further information and a map of grit bins in the Borough please visit

www.southend.gov.uk/wintergritting