

Driving in winter conditions

- Before each journey ask yourself whether it is essential or not.
- Check local traffic or weather reports – www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather
- If you must drive check the Highway Code for advice on driving in ice and snowy weather.
- Leave plenty of time for your journey, do not hurry.
- Ensure your vehicle is prepared – that it is serviced, well maintained and has effective windscreen washer fluid and wipers, sufficient antifreeze and tyres that have the correct depth of tread. It may be advisable to lower tyre pressure a little to increase traction.
- Clear your car of fallen snow – remembering mirrors, lights, windows and the car roof.
- Drive with great care and reduce speed – remember some roads may not be treated or only treated in part.
- Do not brake or accelerate suddenly.
- Keep a safe stopping distance between you and the vehicle in front.
- Direct heated air towards the windscreen to prevent frost and improve visibility.



Recycling and waste services during adverse weather conditions

In the event of adverse or extreme weather conditions, kerbside recycling and waste collections may be delayed and the opening times of Household Waste Recycling Centres affected.

Every effort will be made to continue services as normal and you can help by placing your sacks and bins out for collection on the edge of your property as normal.

In the unlikely event that collections are suspended residents are advised to listen to the local radio, consult the website at www.southend.gov.uk/grit for updates.

For more information visit:

- www.southend.gov.uk/grit
- www.gov.uk
- www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/seasonal
- www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather
- For School updates visit www.southend.gov.uk
- Listen to local radio stations:
 - Radio Essex 105.1/107.7 FM
 - BBC Essex 103.5/95.3FM
 - Heart Essex 102.6/96.3FM



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Winter Gritting



As the Highway Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is responsible for the winter gritting and snow clearance of primary public roads and pavements in the Borough.

How do we deliver the service?

The Council follows a Winter Service Plan, which sets out how we deliver the service during winter weather.

The Council has three gritting vehicles that can also be fitted with snow ploughs.

Rock salt is spread on the surface of roads and footways helping to reduce snow and ice hazards on treated surfaces by lowering the freezing point of water.

The rock salt that we use contains a liquid additive called Safecote which is blended from natural, environmentally friendly ingredients. Safecote reduces the environmental impact of gritting operations as it is biodegradable, and has reduced bounce and greater adhesion to the road surface than pure rock salt, allowing targeted spreading and lasting activation.

Real time in cab systems and vehicle tracking means resources can be optimised and an effective and efficient winter service is delivered.

What does the service include?

The service includes:

- Gritting priority roads
- Snow ploughing priority roads
- Gritting and clearing priority footways
- Providing and maintaining grit bins
- Making salt available for purchase from Short Street
- Providing a volunteer snow warden scheme

Did you know?

- Grit bins are located throughout the borough for residents to use on public highways
- We have 4 quad bikes or equivalent vehicles for the clearance of priority footpaths – they can be fitted with ploughs and/or gritting trailers to meet the demands of the weather conditions.



What are the priorities for gritting?

For Roads:

We prioritise the gritting of three 'Primary Routes' - these routes cover the major roads, bus routes, key public car parks, other busy roads and selected hills on secondary and minor roads within Southend. These have all been selected in consultation with the emergency services and transport companies.

These primary routes are Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's highest priority and will be completed before snow is cleared or gritting is undertaken on any other area.

If there is a salt shortage, or stocks need to be preserved, there may be a reduction in the Primary Routes treated.

For footways:

Once the primary road routes have been completed and if stocks allow, priority footways will be treated. These include main shopping areas, transport interchanges and pedestrian crossings. Other footways will not generally be gritted, however residents may use the grit bins available.

Other locations:

We may deviate from planned routes to support requests from emergency services.

What aren't we able to prioritise for gritting?

As resources are limited we are not able to treat residential highways or footpaths outside the priority areas outlined above.

Please remember that it would be impossible to grit all parts of the road and footway network – residents must take care and assess whether it is safe to continue with their scheduled activities.

Did you know?

Traffic monitoring cameras which can be viewed online at www.southend.gov.uk/trafficcameras to help you plan your journey.



What can I do to prepare for severe winter weather?

- Salt can be purchased from our depot on Short Street Southend SS2 5BY. Please see www.southend.gov.uk/grit for up to date pricing.
- Salt is also available from large retailers and DIY stores.
- Sign up to become a community snow warden, please visit www.southend.gov.uk/snowwarden
- Regularly maintain your vehicle and ensure that it is prepared for winter driving and weather.
- Keep an ice scraper in the car.
- Consult advice on how to stay healthy during winter: www.nhs.uk/livewell/winterhealth

What can I do to help myself and others?

Vulnerable members of our community may struggle during periods of adverse weather. You can help by:

- Offering yourself as a contact for vulnerable neighbours
- Checking in on neighbours and relatives that may need extra assistance
- Offering to run essential errands for them if it is safe to do so
- Use the grit from the bins available for the public footpaths if it is safe to do so

Advice on clearing snow

- Shovel snow as soon as possible after it has fallen...
- ...and before gritting to maximise its effectiveness
- Do not try to clear snow or ice with boiling water – it may freeze and make things worse
- Do not create snow heaps on the highway.