

WINTER ROADS

Your questions answered



Working with



Hampshire
County Council

Keeping Hampshire Moving – Factsheet

WINTER PREPARATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire County Council is committed to keeping Hampshire moving whatever the weather. From the beginning of October to the end of April each year the Hampshire Highways teams are on full alert to deal with bad weather.

Many of the County's roads will also be better prepared to withstand the effects of winter weather as a result of the extensive highways improvements we have undertaken during the last two years, as part of our Operation Restore and Resilience projects.

WHICH ROADS ARE TREATED FIRST?

The main traffic and bus routes, which carry 85% of the traffic, as well as those that give essential access to hospitals, large schools and other critical infrastructure are treated first if ice, frost or snow is forecast. These are called priority one salt routes and would be treated in advance of freezing conditions to achieve the most effective results.

Once the main roads are clear, and there is likely to be a prolonged period of freezing conditions, we will then aim to treat the priority two routes which include single access roads to villages, routes to other schools and those used by emergency and other public services that have not already been treated as part of the priority one regime.

Similarly, when freezing conditions or snow persist for a number of days, road salting can extend to include 'community routes' which are the routes to all other Hampshire controlled schools and larger community facilities such as Health Centres and local shops.

Did you know....

Hampshire's climate can be quite different between the north and south of the County, so, salting decisions are made separately for the 'North Band' and the 'Coastal Band'?

HOW DO WE DECIDE WHEN WE NEED TO SALT?

The County Council uses a number of methods to decide when to salt roads including short and long term weather forecasts from our forecast provider, MeteoGroup, and also information from our own Icelert monitoring system. Icelert uses roadside sensors strategically placed across Hampshire to monitor conditions such as air and road surface temperatures, wind speed and direction, rainfall, humidity and road surface salinity. Hampshire County Council uses this technology to the best effect to ensure that roads are salted at the optimum time.

SALT STATISTICS

- ❖ In Hampshire we use rock or marine salt on the County's roads. For the coming winter we will start the season with enough salt to provide resilience for more than 15 days of continuous salting, which is more than double the amount recommended by Government.
- ❖ Pre-wetted salt is used as it 'sticks' to the road more effectively, doesn't spray up as much as dry salt, uses around 30% less salt and is therefore better for the environment.
- ❖ There is a new salt storage barn at Micheldever which can hold up to 4,000 tonnes of salt. Another storage barn is planned for Havant, to be constructed in the next year.
- ❖ There are 47 'priority one' salting routes in Hampshire, all of which are directly managed by the County Council with its highways partner Amey.
- ❖ 60 salting vehicles are used to salt the county's roads.
- ❖ All salting vehicles are tracked in real time using GPS technology and this allows highways staff to monitor the progress of each lorry.
- ❖ Eight new salt spreaders have been added to the fleet this year which use satellite navigation to direct the drivers along the pre-defined salting routes. This technology will be rolled out to the rest of the spreader fleet as and when replacements are due.
- ❖ The average length of each salting run is 35 miles. It takes between 3-3 ½ hours to salt the entire priority one network.
- ❖ Approximately five tonnes of rock salt is carried by each lorry on a salting run.
- ❖ The County's salt stock has traditionally been greater than that recommended by Government national guidelines.

Did you know..... Salt is less effective at temperatures below minus five degrees celsius, and has little effect at -10C?

SNOW FACTS

- ❖ All full-size spreading vehicles can be plough equipped within 1 hour.
- ❖ For winter 11/12, the County Council will be trialling a number of new 'back to black' plough blades, which remove more snow by ploughing closer to the road surface.
- ❖ Around 100 farmers are on standby to support the County Council's winter weather response when needed, to clear snow from the roads.
- ❖ The average length of a snow plough route is 20 miles.
- ❖ Six snow blowers are available to the County Council and are used during very heavy snow to blow snow off the roads.

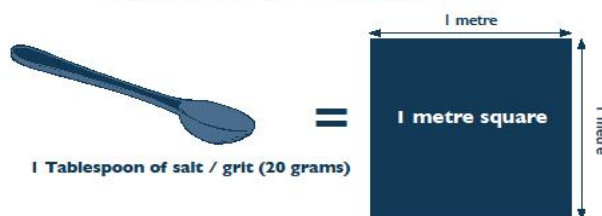
HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP HAMPSHIRE MOVING IN ADVERSE WEATHER

Following the severe winter of 2009/10, the County Council increased the number of salt/grit bins by 2000 to help communities to be more resilient. The new blue bins are in addition to the existing yellow grit bins and are larger, holding 750kg of salt and grit mix.

The bins are for members of the community to use locally on public roads and pavements. They will be refilled as regularly as possible but during spells of freezing weather the priority for highways teams is to keep the main road network clear and salted. From 1st December 2011 empty or damaged salt/grit bins can be reported online: www.hants.gov.uk/index/transport/roadproblems

**THIS SALT/GRIT IS FOR COMMUNITY USE
ON PUBLIC ROADS AND PAVEMENTS ONLY
USE IS AT OWN RISK – Remember, be safe, be seen**

USAGE GUIDANCE



**A tablespoon of salt (20 grams)
is enough to cover 1 metre square**

Overuse will result in the salt being used too quickly

If this bin is empty
please report to
Hampshire County Council

For further information please go to
www.hants.gov.uk/roads

Telephone
0845 603 5633
quoting reference number

DRIVE SAFELY

Before you go out in bad weather remember to:

- Tune in to weather forecasts and travel information for the latest details *before* embarking on your journey.
- Ensure that your vehicle has a well charged battery and antifreeze coolant - many winter breakdowns could be avoided by making these simple checks.
- Ask yourself if your journey is absolutely necessary. If it is, allow sufficient time to reach your destination safely, and make sure your vehicle is prepared.
- Plan your journey carefully, particularly after heavy snowfall. If road conditions are poor, ensure you have suitable weatherproof clothing in case of emergencies. On long journeys, it is also a good idea to take a flask of hot drink and some food, a torch, a fully-charged mobile phone, a pen or pencil and a notepad, and a shovel.
- Always drive according to the prevailing weather conditions. Use dipped headlights in poor weather, avoid sudden acceleration and braking, and keep your speed to an appropriate level for the conditions.
- Never assume that roads are free from frost and ice, even if they look clear.
- Drive with caution, and appropriately to the weather and road conditions even if the roads have been salted. Remember that it takes time for salt to become effective.
- If you have to abandon your vehicle, try to park it so that snow ploughs and salting vehicles are not obstructed and can pass on both sides of the road. Leave a note on the dashboard so that you can be contacted when the road has cleared.
- If you are driving behind a salting lorry, you should keep your distance until it is safe to overtake. When it is, you should accelerate quickly and safely, and adjust your speed to an appropriate level when the manoeuvre is complete.

STAY INFORMED:

See which roads are on which priority routes, and where community grit bins are located by searching by place or postcode online here: www.hants.gov.uk/roads/winter-maintenance/road-salting

If you have a twitter account make sure that you follow @Hantsconnect and @ROMANSE to keep you up to date with the latest news when weather is severe www.twitter.co.uk

For further advice on clearing snow and ice from roads and pavements yourself, please go to: www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

For further advice on safe winter driving, please go to: www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/333.aspx