

## Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself

Anyone can clear snow and ice from the pavement outside their home or public spaces to prevent slips and falls. Follow the snow code to clear snow and ice safely.

### The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces



Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally

responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

### Clear the snow and ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

### Preventing slips



**Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas**

### Use salt or sand - not water

Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery.

You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square

metre you clear should work. You can use the salt found in the grit bins but please use this sparingly as our street sweepers use the salt to grit your streets.

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot.

### **Take care where you move the snow**

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

### **Offer to clear your neighbours' paths**

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

## **DRIVING IN ICY/HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

In icy or hazardous conditions motorists should expect to drive differently than they usually do. When sub-zero temperatures are forecasted ice and sometimes black ice forming is a common occurrence. If possible motorists should consider whether they need to make the journey but if they do then they should follow the below tips:

- Slow down, steer gently and avoid harsh turns, braking or acceleration.
- Keep a safe distance between themselves and other vehicles.
- Look well ahead to anticipate problems.
- When pulling away, use 2nd gear if possible to avoid wheel spin.
- When braking, get into a low gear earlier than normal, allowing the speed to fall, and use the brake pedal gently.
- If in a skid, turn the steering into the skid, easing off the accelerator but not braking suddenly.
- When cornering, allow the speed to reduce well before bends and corners by easing off the accelerator. Try to avoid using the accelerator in rounding a corner as it may cause wheel spin and result in a skid.
- When encountering black ice - which though not visible can be detected because the steering will feel light and/or the noise created by the tyres on the road will cease - reduce speed by easing off the accelerator rather than braking.

Motorists should ensure that they have checked their batteries at the beginning of the winter and that their tyres have been checked for the correct pressure and tread depth.

In addition wiper-blades should be checked and in good condition, you should also ensure anti-freeze is in the engine which acts as a coolant.