

# BULLETIN

## Do you know the Snow Code?

The Department for Transport publishes guidance about clearing snow and ice outside your property, pathways to your property, or public spaces. The guidance says there is no law stopping you from doing this. Despite the myths, it's highly unlikely you would be held legally responsible for any incidents on pathways you have cleared, especially if you:

- Are careful
- Use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

If you are going to remove snow and ice, here are some tips:

- Start as early as possible – it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- Don't use hot water – while this will melt the snow, it may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- Be a good neighbour – some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming – table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- Use the sun to your advantage – removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- If there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives



## How are we doing so far?

As at: 27th January 2016

We started monitoring temperatures in mid-October last year, and since then we have been out salting the roads a total of 33 times – 17 times in the south, and 16 in the north of Buckinghamshire. The first gritting run was necessary on 20th November, and the longest continuous cold snap so far was between January 11th and 22nd, during which gritters were out every day, on priority precautionary routes.

We kept Twitter and our winter blog updated with our plans, weather forecasts and progress. The blog on our website continues to be updated with our progress and our daily gritting decisions can also be seen on the site – [buckscc.gov.uk/transport](http://buckscc.gov.uk/transport) – under 'Winter Maintenance'. For up to the minute gritting updates, follow us on Twitter @tfbalerts.

As potholes can appear as a result of the cold weather, next month the factsheet will provide information on potholes and our process of repair. If you need to report a pothole that requires urgent attention, please call our contact centre on 01296 382416 or 01296 486630 (out of hours). Any other faults or road defects can be reported online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/tell-tfb/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/tell-tfb/)

If you have any feedback or requests for the topics covered in these fact sheets, do let us know, we are keen to provide information that you find helpful. Email [tfbcomms@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:tfbcomms@buckscc.gov.uk).



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