



Thank you for volunteering to help keep pavements and roads clear of ice and snow in your area of the community. Here are a few important guidelines to ensure that you and others are kept safe. It's all common sense really but please read these notes and ask if there are any questions.

Your first responsibility is not to risk your own safety or health.

- Shovelling snow is arduous work and you should only do it if you are fit and well enough to do it. It's easy to overdo such work if you are not used to it.
- Moving vehicles on slippery roads can slide in any direction without warning – spread grit only when there are no vehicles moving nearby and ensure vehicles are stationary before digging them out of snow.
- Salt is corrosive and will burn your skin if you remain in contact with it; if you must handle it, gloves need to be rubber or 'chemical resistant' as it will soak into fabric.
- Please take your responsibility for your own welfare seriously. Don't try and do too much.

Please ensure that anything you do makes things better and never worse. For example

- Don't clear snow unless you can ensure the surface can be made free of ice by using salt or grit. Snow is easier to walk on than ice and it is quite obvious that the surface is slippery so people are warned to be careful. Black ice is treacherous because there is no such warning.
- Please make sure that water from melting snow can drain away – if it forms a puddle and freezes overnight the result is more hazardous than the original snow.
- Finally, please don't throw hot water on snow to clear it.

Please use grit supplies wisely. For example

- There isn't much point putting grit down when snow is expected as any accompanying rain or melting of the snow will wash the salt away leaving the surface unprotected from any ice which may form later; better to clear away fallen snow first, then grit.
- Gritting to *prevent* ice forming isn't necessary on *every* cold night and there won't be enough salt for that; Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) gritting lorries in action are a good clue as to when it is worthwhile. Otherwise, please only grit when the need is already obvious.

How much grit should be used?

The quantity of grit required is quite small; a hand-full will cover about 1 sq yard/metre. Grit is therefore best distributed from a trowel and not a shovel! If pure salt (rather than the salty grit which Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) supplies) is used, you only need about a tablespoon/sq metre!

Please do make sure that slopes and steps are thoroughly treated as these present a particular risk to pedestrians. In this case, you should use a bit more than the minimum quantity to be sure of success in making such high-risk areas safe. It is usually obvious where the ice has melted quite quickly after application so you can see if you have used enough.

When and where should gritting be done?

OCC will grit main roads through Eynsham, e.g. New Witney Rd, Acre End St, London Rd, Mill St, Station Rd, B4449. EPC doesn't have enough grit to keep the roads clear but will concentrate on a few key areas and pedestrian footpaths.

Businesses such as shops *ought* to clear the footpath outside their own premises, especially as the land is often owned by them.

The locations currently identified for priority clearing and gritting are:

- Slopes, e.g. Merton Close up to Acre End St, both road and footpaths.
- Busy footpaths/pavements, e.g. Conduit Lane and down to Co-op, Butchers.
- Wastie Lane and path to Lloyds pharmacy. Back Lane Car Park to Evans Rd path.
- Hawthorn and Beech Roads leading to the Primary School. (A grit bin is located near the Public Right of Way at Hawthorn Road).

EPC has stocks of salt available for volunteers and the grit-bin at the entrance to Merton Close was purchased with a grant from Cottsway for use on both roads and pavements. The main road routes – particularly the S1 bus - should be gritted by OCC anyway and Parish Council grit is primarily intended to keep people safe in busy areas near shops or where slopes make walking difficult.

The ideal result is a strip of cleared and gritted pavement about 1m (3 feet) wide. Pile cleared snow where it will cause least inconvenience and where it can melt away safely. It is much easier if the snow is cleared before it can be trampled to ice so it is better to clear snow as soon as possible.

Surfaces only need gritting when they are likely to be icy during daytime; it isn't practical keep surfaces ice-free overnight or when the ice would clear naturally before most vulnerable people are out and about.

We recommend the following websites for further information/advice:-

Additional information - www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway

Stay up to date with the latest weather forecast - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

Report an empty grit bin or highway problem - www.fixmystreet.com