

Adverse Weather Self Help

The Snow Code contains practical advice on what you can do to help, when adverse weather conditions occur.

The Snow Code

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice from paths pavements or public spaces outside your home, shop or office.

Don't be put off clearing snow & ice because you're afraid someone will get injured. Regardless of what you do, pedestrians & drivers have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Doing your part may help the local community and will be very helpful to the more vulnerable members of society.

Tips & Advice on clearing snow & ice from paths pavements or public spaces.

Follow the Snow Code advice below to clear the pathway safely & effectively.

- **Moving Snow**
Think about where you are going to put it, make sure it will not cause problems. Ensure you don't block other people's paths or the road and do not pile snow over gullies or drains as this may stop melting snow draining away.
- **Use Salt or Sand**
Be careful not to make pathways and pavements more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. Do not use Hot Water, this may melt the snow and ice but is very likely to refreeze turning to black ice causing more risk than it prevents as black ice increases the risk of injury because it is invisible and very slippery.
- **Repeat Salt Spreading**
Remember salt can be washed away you may need to repeat salt spreading. You can use ordinary table salt or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon per square meter cleared should work. If you don't have enough salt then use a little sand or ash, these won't stop the freezing as well as salt but will provide grip underfoot.
- **Clear Snow & Ice Early in the Day**
It's much easier to clear fresh snow than hard packed snow, so if possible start early 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 prevent the area from refreezing overnight by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared before nightfall.
- **Prevent Slips**
Pay extra attention to steps and steep slopes - to clear snow & ice from these areas additional salt should be used to reduce the risk of slipping.

- **Take Care**

Take care when you're moving snow, first clear a small path down the middle of the area to be cleared, so you have a safe surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre to of the path to the sides. Use common sense and don't do anything which would be likely to cause harm to others.

- **Clothing**

Wrap up wear suitable warm clothing make yourself visible and wear footwear that provides a good grip.

- **Be a Good Neighbour**

Some people may be unable to clear their paths, if your neighbour has difficulty getting in and out of their home offer to clear their path for them. Check that elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in cold weather. These are kind and practical steps that most of us can take during cold weather.