



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Winter maintenance Information for Members



About the winter gritting service

Nottinghamshire County Council salting routes

The County Council grits when road temperatures are predicted to be at or below 0°C and ice is predicted to form on the road surface.

23 gritters are stationed across the county and grit, in total, 1,120 miles of 'A' and 'B' roads, as well as major bus routes – one third of the county's entire road network, equivalent to driving from Land's End to John O'Groats.

A team of 23 permanent night shift drivers work from November to March and 46 standby drivers are on hand to provide cover for daytime and weekend gritting.

Like every other local authority in the country, the County Council is unable to respond to every request for roads and pavements to be gritted. Gritting every road in the county would cost an extra £5.2 million plus an additional £8 million to pay for new equipment and salt storage.

The gritting of motorways and trunk roads in Nottinghamshire including the M1, A1, A46, A52 and A453 is the responsibility of the Highways Agency – call 0300 123 5000.

Listening to our customers to improve our service

The County Council has made a number of changes to its gritting service. We have:

- invested £500,000 to build a new 650sq metre salt barn at Gamston, taking the total number of salt barns to four, which safely store 18,000 tonnes of salt under cover
- stockpiled 22,000 tonnes of salt - around 12,000 tonnes more than the official Government recommendations - putting Nottinghamshire in a very strong position for dealing with the worst of the winter.

- added extra roads to the gritting routes - now all 'A' and 'B' roads, major bus routes, some steep hills, at least one route into every major settlement and access routes to special schools are gritted
- arranged for 63 local farmers to be on standby in case of severe weather supported by 85 snow wardens
- recruited additional Nottinghamshire County Council volunteer 4x4 drivers to help make sure essential services for the most vulnerable can continue to be provided.

Helping people to help themselves

Recognising the strong community spirit in Nottinghamshire, the County Council is helping local people to help themselves get prepared for the wintry weather in a number of ways including:

- offering up to five bags of salt - free of charge - to Parish Councils
- introducing a scheme for Town and Parish Councils to purchase blue grit bins which they then take on responsibility for keeping full
- highlighting the Snow Code in all our literature to reassure people that they will not face legal action if they safely clear snow and ice from driveways and pavements outside their home.

Keeping communities informed

The County Council has an important role to play in providing accurate, up-to-date information about the availability of Council services during wintry weather.

We do this in a number of different ways including:

- publishing daily updates on our website about school closures and other disruption
- updates as we get them on the Council's Twitter feed - sign up to Twitter at **www.twitter.com** and then follow us **@NottsCC**
- updates on the Council's Facebook page at **www.facebook.com/nottinghamshire**
- close liaison with the local media and regular press releases and updates.

Information to help your constituents

Members' feedback helps the County Council to improve the services we offer during wintry weather.

We have a range of information available to help constituents including:

- the online gritting map to help people plan their route to work using roads that are gritted. Available on our public website at:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/winterroads
- daily updates at **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**
- our Twitter feed provides real time updates delivered to your PC, smartphone or by checking our website homepage at **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**. Sign up to Twitter at **www.twitter.com** and then follow us **@NottsCC**
- updates on the Council's Facebook page – at **www.facebook.com/nottinghamshire**
- Disruption to services page at **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/disruption/**
- the winter weather plan **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/emergencyplans**

- reminding people how they can help themselves get ready for winter by checking information available online at **www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter**
- Community emergency plan templates to help communities to plan ahead and help themselves **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communityemergencyplan**

Emergency evacuation

In extreme weather conditions the emergency services may recommend that residents evacuate their property. Evacuees will be directed to a place of safety where an initial assessment of their needs will be made. People should consider if they have friends or family to stay with and have supplies of medication, baby and pet items to take with them.

Depending on the scale, duration and nature of the evacuation, residents may be temporarily re-housed in hotels, bed & breakfasts, hostels, residential homes or other temporary accommodation according to their needs. Many evacuees prefer to stay with family or friends as this often provides the most comfortable and supportive environment.

In the event of a large-scale evacuation, local authorities may open a rest centre. This is a facility, such as a leisure centre, where the immediate welfare needs of evacuees can be met and enables assistance to be targeted at the most vulnerable members of the community.

Highways contacts – for Members only

If Members have specific gritting queries, please contact our highways team:

- Eamonn Harrison, Highways Manager,
0115 977 3961/ mobile 07966 197 302
- Andy Warrington, Highways Service Director,
0115 977 4681/ 07739 862956

- County Duty Officer, Out of Hours
01253 502 776 quote Nottinghamshire County Council

Please do not share these numbers with your constituents – the Customer Service Centre will handle all calls from the public on **0300 500 80 80**.

Emergency planning contacts for Members only

The Emergency Planning Team operate a 24/7 Emergency Duty Officer system, 365 days a year.

During emergencies, Members can obtain information from the emergency 'Members' Hot Line' run from the Emergency Centre, **0115 977 3899**.

The Elected Members' Emergency Plan provides an overview of how emergency planning, response and recovery is coordinated in Nottinghamshire:

<http://intranet.nottsc.gov.uk/emergencyplans>

Winter weather tips for motorists, pedestrians, homeowners and older neighbours

For motorists

As a driver, make sure that your car has a winter maintenance check, ensuring that you:

- keep the lights, windows and mirrors clean and free from ice and snow
- keep your battery fully charged
- add anti-freeze to the radiator and winter additive to the windscreen washer bottles
- make sure wipers and lights are in good working order
- have an ice scraper and de-icer handy

- check that tyres have plenty of tread depth and are maintained at the correct pressure
- plan your route to work - use the online gritting routes map - and make sure you have a road atlas in your car
- help our gritters and emergency services get through to keep the roads clear - if you're forced to abandon your car, make sure you leave it as close to the side of the road as you can.
- consider using public transport – it will be easier as main roads are gritted
- make sure you have a coat, Wellington boots, walking boots, a warm blanket, a shovel and a flask of hot drink in your car in case you break down
- take care near schools and drive especially carefully.

If the weather is very bad, decide whether your journey is really necessary.

And if you get stranded in the snow

- make sure your mobile phone is fully charged in case you break down
- always carry details of your breakdown/recovery service

For pedestrians

As a pedestrian, take your own winter maintenance check, ensuring that you:

- make sure other road users can see you
- wear or carry something light coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight
- use reflective materials when it is dark, which will show up in car headlights. Reflective materials can be seen up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials

- use pedestrian crossing facilities where they are available
- if no pedestrian facilities are available then cross near to a street light if possible
- make sure that your footwear has a good tread, to avoid slipping.

Being prepared at home

- have a week's worth of food and safety supplies, including bread in the freezer, long-life milk and non-cook foods. If you live far from other people, have extra supplies on hand
- learn how to shut off your water valves and cold supply pipe in case of a burst pipe
- have a supply of your prescription drugs and other medicine at home
- have a wind-up torch and radio in case of power cuts
- buy rock salt or table salt to melt ice on your driveway or use sand to help get a grip on slippery surfaces
- check your snow shovels are in good condition.

Key messages about County Council services during the winter

A guide to help you answer some of the questions you may be asked.

Gritting the roads

The County Council salts 1,120 miles of A and B roads and main bus routes - around one third of the local road network.

To salt every road in Nottinghamshire would cost, in total, an additional £5.2 million on top of the Council's existing £2.45 million budget.

The County Council salts main roads to keep busy routes clear to minimise disruption. It takes around three hours to salt all routes.

Salt levels

At the start of the winter we had stockpiled 22,000 tonnes of salt – that's enough to carry out four gritting runs, every day, for a whole month.

Each time we grit, we spread an area 1,050,000m square in size - equivalent to 100 large football pitches.

Our salt is stored at four salt barns at Gamston, Bilsthorpe, Newark, and Markham Moor. Salt barns protect the salt from clumping together after rain which would make it difficult to spread.

Grit bins

Yellow grit bins are provided and maintained by the County Council where:

- the site is very exposed and severely affected by winter weather
- a junction hazard is present
- there is very high pedestrian movement, especially near local centres or the site is used regularly by the elderly, very young or mobility impaired. They are kept filled up throughout the gritting season and are allowed to be used on roads - not private driveways.

Blue grit bins

Residents, Town and Parish Councils can purchase a blue bin from the County Council – coloured blue to differentiate them from the Council's own yellow bins – which can be delivered, filled with salt, ready for use.

Once delivered, local residents become responsible for making sure the blue bin is kept full of salt and for spreading any salt on the road in severe weather.

Investment in winter gritting

The County Council spends £2.45 million on winter maintenance services across the County.

How to get up-to-date information about County Council services during severe weather

- check the County Council website at **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**
- sign up to Twitter at **www.twitter.com** and then follow us **@NottsCC**
- visit the Council's Facebook page at **www.facebook.com/nottsc**
- call the County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0300 500 80 80**
- listen to local radio and check the local press.

About other County Council services

Schools

Individual schools are responsible for deciding if they need to close or delay the start of school due to ice and snow. The decision is made by Governors and headteachers.

Many schools are close to existing main roads that are already salted.

Meals on wheels

Making sure vulnerable people receive County Council services as usual is our priority.

We have 4x4 vehicles on standby and borrow vehicles from other organisations like the Environment Agency to make sure our drivers can deliver hot meals as usual.

If you are concerned about whether or not you will receive a meal, please call **01623 49 00 15**.

Other services

Senior County Council managers decide whether or not to close County Council services like libraries, country parks and office buildings. Closure is considered as a last resort as we like to maintain a business as usual approach at all times.

Signs will be displayed at entrances and answerphone messages will be changed to reflect the closure. Details will also be published on the County Council website **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk** Alternatively, to check if a building is opening before you set out, call the County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0300 500 80 80**.

Legal advice and the snow code

There is no law stopping you from safely clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as 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 a responsibility to take care.

Notes



**Nottinghamshire
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W nottinghamshire.gov.uk/gritting
E enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk
T 0300 500 80 80



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