

SNOW INFO

When it snows go to...

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow

for

- ▶ School closures
- ▶ Find your nearest grit bin
- ▶ Latest weather
- ▶ Gritting routes and updates
- ▶ Road conditions


www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow

Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058*

*or 01629 533190



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to go to our mobile website.

 **DERBYSHIRE**
County Council
Improving life for local people

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GET READY FOR WINTER



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or 01629 533190
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Over the past two years we've faced some of the most extreme winter weather we've ever seen.

This year we're preparing for the worst again – but we can't do everything ourselves.

We're working with district and parish councils, community groups, farmers and other contractors to clear even more roads. And we're asking everyone to be a 'snow buddy' and check on elderly and disabled neighbours.

Whatever surprises the weather may have in store for us this winter, residents can count on us being better prepared than ever before.

We hope you find this leaflet helpful. It lists useful contacts and simple but sensible measures we can all take to make sure we're prepared for winter.

Councillor Simon Spencer

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Derbyshire County Council

YOUR QUESTIONS



Where can I find...

...my nearest grit bin?

Look it up online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritbin or Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190 and tell us your postcode.

...which roads are on a gritting route?

For maps showing gritting routes go to our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritting, visit any library or contact Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190

...information about road conditions and gritting?

We'll be providing regular updates about the situation on our roads online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow and to the local media.

...if schools or other services are closed?

Visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow, check your school website or listen to your local radio station.

Continued inside ▶

Use the internet on your mobile phone?
Go to <http://m.derbyshire.gov.uk>

YOUR QUESTIONS



How do I tell someone about...

...an empty or damaged grit bin?

Make a note of the grit bin number displayed on the lid. You can either report it online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritbin, Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190 or text the grit bin number to 86555.

...severe snow and ice causing problems on the roads or pavements?

On our website there is a form you can use to request a road to be gritted: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow
In heavy snow and ice our focus is on keeping the main roads open. We cannot guarantee to grit roads which are not on our primary or secondary gritting routes.

...a friend, neighbour or relative I'm concerned about?

Speak to them first and if you can't help Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190 or 999 in an emergency. For more information visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snowbuddies

"If it snows heavily our contact centre can get very busy and we do our very best to help everyone. Sometimes we have to prioritise calls from people who are worried about vulnerable relatives or neighbours – so that we can get to those in need first."

Helen Barker, Call Derbyshire

"It's a nice feeling at the end of the day knowing you've helped an old lady who couldn't otherwise get out or you've helped someone get to work in the mornings. You get home and think I've done a good thing today."

Ryan Boam, Flagg farmer and snow ploughing contractor

GRITTING FACTS



- ▶ We are not cutting our gritting budget. Last year we spent £4.5 million – overspending the £3.5m budget by £1m. This year we have £4.5m available.
- ▶ We've increased our stock of grit from 14,000 tonnes to 24,000 tonnes in depots around the county so we're even better prepared in case of another harsh winter.
- ▶ We get grit deliveries daily as and when we need them.
- ▶ We have 47 gritter vehicles and ploughs to attach to them, two snowblowers and more than 150 staff who work to grit, clear snow and co-ordinate our response.
- ▶ We use the latest weather forecasting technology and road temperature sensors to decide when we need to send out gritting vehicles and how much grit to spread.
- ▶ Gritting doesn't work if it is extremely cold – below minus 10 degrees celsius.
- ▶ We're responsible for maintaining and filling 1,319 grit bins and heaps across the county. District, borough, town and parish councils are responsible for a further 1,111 bins.
- ▶ We don't grit or clear snow from the A38, A628, A50 or the M1. The Highways Agency is responsible for these roads.
- ▶ Grit costs us around £30 a tonne to buy. Last year we used around 30,000 tonnes – that's £900,000.
- ▶ We run a 24/7 service and we grit 47% of our roads.
- ▶ Anyone is welcome to use grit from bins or salt heaps to make public roads and pavements safer for everyone. You should not use public salt or grit on your own private property including paths and drives – you could be prosecuted.

"We use rock salt to grit our roads – it works by lowering the freezing point of water and it's more effective when ground up by pedestrians and vehicles."

Gerald O'Brien, gritter driver

THE SNOW CODE



There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. So it's unlikely you'd be sued or held legally responsible if someone was injured on the path if you clear it carefully. Just follow these simple steps set out in the Government's Snow Code:

- ▶ Start early - clear the snow or ice early in the day and cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.
- ▶ Use salt or sand - not water. Help prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. Use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Sand or ash won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.
- ▶ Take care where you throw the snow 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.

- ▶ Be a good neighbour. If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well – especially if they're elderly or disabled and depend on social care services which need to reach them.
- ▶ Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

"If we face another harsh winter we need many more local authorities to encourage residents to do the responsible and neighbourly thing shifting their own snow... there's no health and safety reason for them not to. I am delighted to see there's a lot more common sense in Derbyshire."

Judith Hackett CBE,
Chair of the Health and Safety Executive

STAYING WARM, STAYING WELL



Cold weather is especially dangerous for older people or people with serious illnesses. If you are concerned about anyone speak to them first and if you can't help Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058 or 01629 533190. In an emergency call 999.

Here are some hints on how to keep warm and safe in the winter weather.

- ▶ Check you have shoes with good grips to prevent falls in cold weather; wear several layers of clothes to stay warm; and remain active in your home.
- ▶ Have regular hot drinks and at least one hot meal a day. Eating regularly helps keep energy levels up during winter.
- ▶ Warm your bed and bedroom before turning in for the night. Your bedroom should be kept above 18°C overnight.
- ▶ Keep plenty of food in your cupboards and stock up on supplies such as heating oil if you use it.
- ▶ Check you have had your flu jab if you are aged 65 or over, pregnant, have certain medical conditions, live in a residential or nursing home, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person.

"People with heart or breathing problems may have worse symptoms during a cold spell and for several days after temperatures return to normal, so please be a 'snow buddy' and check up on them if you can."

Councillor Carol Hart, Cabinet Member for Public Health

- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist to make sure you or someone you look after has an adequate supply of any prescription medicines.
- ▶ If you use an electric blanket, have it serviced at least every three years.

Winter Fuel Payments of up to £200 are available if you were born on or before 5 January 1951. Most people will receive this money automatically but to find out more call 08459 151515 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/winterfuel

PROTECTING YOUR HOME



Ten tips on how to prepare your home for a cold spell:

- ▶ Check that pipes are adequately lagged.
- ▶ Check that you have ordered your winter heating fuel.
- ▶ Get your chimney or flue swept.
- ▶ Buy a supply of salt to use on paths and steps around your property.
- ▶ Stock up on tinned food and supplies for your freezer.
- ▶ Test your central heating – get your boiler serviced and make sure radiators are hot from top to bottom.
- ▶ If you have a condensing boiler, check the pipe is insulated – many homes had problems last year when the external pipe froze.
- ▶ Find out if you are entitled to a grant for insulation. If you are on certain income-related benefits you may be entitled to up to £3,500 to insulate your home from the Warm Front scheme: 0800 316 2805.

“If you’re looking for a for a local trader to help prepare your home for winter, you can find reputable businesses on the county council’s Trusted Trader list at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/tt or call 08456 058 058.”

Councillor Kevin Parkinson,
Cabinet Member for Regeneration

- ▶ Check that you know where your stop tap is located – in case a pipe bursts.
- ▶ Be especially aware of fire safety – particularly if you are planning to use portable heaters, open fires or stoves. Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarms and test them every week.

WINTER ON THE ROADS



Use our checklist to make sure you are ready for winter driving conditions:

- ▶ Only travel if your journey is necessary.
- ▶ Use dipped headlights and reduce your speed.
- ▶ Ensure all your vehicle windows are free of frost and ice.
- ▶ Check your wiper blades and replace if worn and check your radiator has the correct amount of water and anti-freeze.
- ▶ Check your lights are clean and in working order.
- ▶ Check that your tyres have the correct amount of air in them and that they have plenty of tread depth.

- ▶ Check that your vehicle battery is in a good condition and fully charged.
- ▶ If going on a long journey take a shovel, torch, wellington boots, warm clothing, food and a hot drink.
- ▶ When roads are icy or covered in snow or slush use the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin.
- ▶ When braking, to prevent locking your wheels, get into a low gear earlier than normal and allow your speed to fall and use the brake pedal gently.
- ▶ If you have children who will be walking in icy conditions, tell them to take extra care crossing the road because cars may not be able to stop as quickly.

“Buses and trains often keep running in snow and icy conditions. If you’re worried about driving go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow and follow the link to public transport.”

Geoff Pickford, Derbyshire County Council public transport team

“I think if anyone who is able to helps to keep the pavements and footpaths clear, it’ll benefit everyone in the community.”

Barry Aldridge, volunteer snow warden