

# INFORMATION FOR SNOW WARDENS

## Frequently asked questions

### Where can I find the location of my nearest grit bin?

Look online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritbin](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritbin) or Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190 and give us your postcode.

### How do I report 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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/gritbin), Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190 or text it to 86555.

### Who do I contact if I am concerned about severe snow and ice causing problems on the roads or to report which pavements and footpaths I've gritted?

In heavy snow and freezing temperatures our contact centre gets very busy with calls. The quickest and easiest way to report problems on our roads in winter is online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snowwardens](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snowwardens). Just click on the Snow Wardens reporting form.

### Where can I find weather forecasts online?

There are links to the MetOffice website on [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow).

### How can I find out when roads in my area have been gritted?

Check the Snow Info website for latest gritting information at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow).

### Where can I find information about road conditions and gritting in snow, and freezing temperatures?

We will be providing regular updates about the situation on our roads online at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow).

### Who do I contact if I am concerned about the welfare of a friend, neighbour or relative?

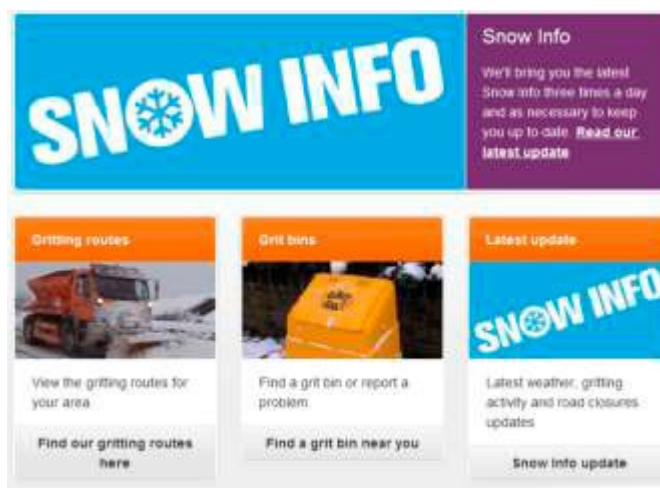
Speak to them first and if you can't help Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190 or 999 in an emergency. For more information visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snowbuddies](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snowbuddies).

### How can I find out if schools and libraries are closed and what council events are cancelled due to winter weather?

Visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow) or if you don't have access to the internet contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190. Local radio stations will, of course, continue their important role in announcing closures too.

### Can people use grit bins or salt heaps for private use?

Anyone is welcome to use grit from bins or salt heaps to make public roads and pavements safer for everyone. They **should not** use it on their own private property including paths and drives, they could be prosecuted. [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow)



[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport\\_roads/roads\\_traffic/road\\_maintenance/snow\\_info](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/roads_traffic/road_maintenance/snow_info)

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## £592,000 grit bill

Grit costs us around £37 a tonne to buy. Last year we used around 16,000 tonnes, that's £592,000.

## More gritting facts

- We store 28,000 tonnes of grit in depots around the county so we're prepared in case of a harsh winter.
- We have 26 frontline gritting vehicles with ploughs to attach to them, if required, and more than 150 staff who work to grit, clear snow and co-ordinate our response.
- We use rock salt to grit our roads. It de-ices roads by lowering the freezing point of water. It is more effective when ground up by pedestrians and vehicles.
- 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 does not work below minus 10 degrees Celsius.
- We get grit deliveries daily, as and when we need them.
- We are 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 do not grit or clear snow from the A38, A628, A50 or the M1. The Highways Agency is responsible for these roads.

## SNOW CODE

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. So it is unlikely you would 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:

- 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 will not stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass, it could damage them.
- Take care where you throw the snow so it does not block peoples' 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.
- If your neighbour does have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well, especially if they are elderly or disabled and depend on home health and social care support services which need to reach them. Check on elderly and disabled neighbours to make sure they are okay, with enough heat and food. If you are worried about them in any way, please Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.
- Pay extra attention when clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways, you might need to use more salt on these areas.

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# SNOW INFO

Call Derbyshire 01629 533190  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow)  
or email [snow@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:snow@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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