

Details of all our salting routes are available from our Divisional offices (contact details below).

Headquarters

Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB
Tel: (028) 9054 0540

Northern Division

County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3HS
Tel: (028) 7034 1300
After Hours (028) 7035 3202

Southern Division

Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon, BT64 1AO
Tel: (028) 3834 1144
After Hours (028) 3752 9500

Eastern Division

Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road, Belfast, BT8 8JL
Tel: (028) 9025 3000 (24 Hours)

Western Division

County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT79 7AF
Tel: (028) 8225 4111
After Hours (028) 8224 1999

The telephone numbers of our local Section Offices are in our display advertisement in the Phone Book (look under Roads in the Government Offices Section).

For more information see our websites at www.drdni.gov.uk www.nidirect.gov.uk



Winter Service Information Leaflet

Keeping Traffic on the Move During Winter



An Agency within the Department for
Regional Development
www.drdni.gov.uk



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Main Salting Routes

The salted network in Northern Ireland is fairly extensive and this map is only intended to provide a graphical representation of the main salting routes and should not be relied upon for decision making purposes.

Key

- Motorways
- Trunk
- Other



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Roads Service aims to help traffic on main roads move safely in wintry conditions by spreading salt at the most effective times. Staff are on standby 24 hours a day to monitor and react according to the conditions.

What roads do Roads Service salt?

Roads Service focuses its resources on important routes carrying over 80% of traffic:

- main through routes carrying more than 1,500 vehicles per day
- other busy through routes carrying more than 1,000 vehicles per day may be included if there are difficult circumstances
- special allowance is made for school and other buses by a weighting factor, e.g. a 40 seater bus is counted as 40 vehicles
- Links to small settlements, (100 dwellings or more) via the shortest route to the main salted road
- On more lightly trafficked roads salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public on a self-help basis
- Special arrangements are in place for rural schools that face particular difficulties
- All other routes are normally not salted.

When does salting take place?

The Winter Service season lasts from the end of October to mid April. This can be extended if necessary. The Met Office provides Roads Service with special weather forecasts.

When is salt not normally spread?

- When raining due to the risk of wash-off
- On dry roads, as moisture is required for ice to form
- In the middle of the night and on roads with fewer vehicles as traffic is required to turn salt into de-icing solution.

What happens in heavy snow conditions?

We direct all available resources to clearing routes in the following priority order:

1. Motorway and trunk road network.
2. The remainder of the salted network.
3. The remainder of the public road network.

It may be some time before we work through all the priorities.

Try to ensure your vehicle does not block access for winter service vehicles, (abandoned and stationary vehicles are the main cause of obstruction).

Advice when driving in icy or snowy conditions

The best advice to motorists is given in the Highway Code for Northern Ireland

- drive with care even if the roads have been gritted
- be prepared for the road conditions changing over relatively short distances
- take care when overtaking gritting machines

Clearing ice and snow from pavements

Roads Service does not normally salt footways but where resources permit will work with Councils during prolonged periods of snow and ice to clear footways in busy town centres and pedestrian areas.

People often ask if legally they can clear snow and ice. The fact is there's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces.

In 2010, the Attorney General of Northern Ireland advised if you clear snow/ice carefully you are unlikely to be held liable.

Commercial property owners in particular should make sure that they have adequate supplies of salt in place to ensure the safety of employees and visitors.

Tips on clearing ice and snow

Clear ice/snow early in the day: Loose snow is easier removed than hard snow which has packed together from people walking on it.

Use salt or sand – NOT water: If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice which is invisible and very slippery.

Take care where you move the snow: When you are shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains.

Prevent slips: Pay extra attention to clear ice and snow from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas.

No guarantees for ice free roads

Despite everyone's best efforts there is no guarantee that roads will always be completely free of snow.

Remember:

- the weather forecasts are not always 100 per cent accurate
- If it rains the salt may be washed away and ice may form
- Salting time: It takes up to 3.5 hours to salt a route so your journey may start or end on an untreated section of the route.

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