Help us to help you this winter 2017/18

Streets Ahead
making Sheffield safer
The Streets Ahead team grit over 60% of the city’s road network and have around 2000 grit bins for the public to use. The team of staff and gritters are on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready to deal with whatever the winter weather has in store.

**What we grit**
Sheffield grits more of its highway network than any other local authority in the UK. We grit the roads in a priority order called priority 1 and 2.

**Priority 1**
Priority 1 routes are the main roads which link Sheffield to other major cities and the motorway network. They also provide access to key emergency facilities such as the hospitals and fire stations.

**Priority 2**
Priority 2 routes are the other main routes, such as bus routes, link roads, roads where key public services facilities (such as schools, GP surgeries and care homes) are located and rural routes serving less populated areas.

When freezing temperatures are predicted, we precautionary grit the priority 1 routes and then move onto the priority 2 routes.

To view a map of the routes and to search to see if your road is a priority route, visit [www.sheffield.gov.uk/winter](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/winter).

We also grit and clear snow from the city’s busiest pavements and pedestrian areas, including the perimeter of the two hospital sites, around the train station and the main retail area, prioritising those that have the highest footfall. We only grit cycle lanes if they are on roads that form part of the priority 1 or 2 routes. We do not clear snow from, or grit all cycle lanes across the city.

**What we don’t grit**
Unfortunately, we are unable to grit every road in the city and we do not clear snow from residential pavements. We also don’t grit cycle lanes that do not form part of the priority 1 or 2 routes.

**How do we know when to grit?**
When any of our five weather stations across the city or our forecasting services predict that temperatures are due to drop below freezing, we begin to prepare our fleet of gritters to start treating priority routes at the most appropriate time. We don’t always grit all of our routes because sometimes forecasts indicate that the temperatures in one area will be lower than another, e.g. in higher parts of the city. We may also stagger start times based on the weather forecast. Precautionary gritting is carried out in priority order, with priority 1 routes treated first.

Once these have been fully completed, we will then move onto the priority 2 routes. We try and carry out gritting when the roads are at their quietest to avoid peak traffic. This is usually during the night when temperatures are at their lowest which is why you may not see us.

However, during bad weather we may have to grit at other times, which can be around the clock in heavy snow.
How are the roads treated when it snows?
If we receive a forecast of snow, we will usually send out our fleet of gritters to apply grit to the priority 1 and priority 2 routes before the snow is due to fall. Once this is completed and the snow begins to fall, snow ploughs are then fitted to the gritters so that snow can be cleared from the roads. It’s important to remember that even though grit is applied to the road before snow is due to fall, it will not necessarily prevent snow from settling if there is heavy snow fall. Grit is more effective once it has been driven into the road surface by vehicle tyres. We clear snow from our roads in a priority order, starting with the priority 1 route.

We will remain on these routes until they are clear and will not move onto priority 2 routes until that happens.

Grit bins
We have around 2000 grit bins across the city for members of the public to use and these are checked and filled at the start of each winter season. These grit bins will also be refilled throughout the winter season as and when needed. Please check your nearest grit bin regularly and let us know via the website or Twitter on @sccsteetsahead if it needs refilling.

For further details about your nearest grit bin, visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/winter. Please note that you can use grit from any of the 2000 bins across the city. We are not taking any more requests for grit bins this year and their locations and usage will be monitored over the winter months.

Remember...
• Although we work to make the roads safer, you are responsible for driving according to the weather conditions.
• Never assume a road has been gritted and beware of black ice.
• Try not to abandon your cars in the middle of the road in snowy conditions as this means that our gritters are not able to get through.

Are you prepared?
This year, we also need your help. We are prepared and we also need you to be too. Follow this tick list to make sure you are ready for the winter:
• Check your tyre thread depths and pressure and don’t forget the spare wheel
• Make sure your lights are working and are clean
• Top up your antifreeze if needed - a garage can check this for you. Inspect your wiper blades to make sure that they’re in good condition
• Fill up your screen wash with a product that will prevent freezing
• Ensure your car battery is in good condition as cold-weather driving will make extra demands on it
• Have a winter emergency kit ready in your car, including ice scraper and de-icer, torch, warm clothes and a blanket, boots, first aid kit, a shovel and food and a warm drink when travelling in wintry weather
Before setting off:
- Consider whether your journey is essential
- Check the weather forecast for your outward and return journeys
- Plan your route and allow more time than usual
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear and carry extra warm clothing in case your journey is interrupted

What you can do:
- Check your local bus route and try to use public transport where possible
- Grit the pavement outside where you live
- Clear snow from the pavement where you live
- Grit the pavements and clear snow from where your neighbours live
- Help the vulnerable
- Tell us when grit bins are almost empty
- Work with volunteer organisations
- Prepare your car
- Take the weather and road conditions into account when driving

Driving tips:
- Watch your speed, particularly in icy conditions
- Keep your distance - it takes much longer to stop in ice and snow
- Try to anticipate the actions of other drivers
- Avoid harsh acceleration, steering or braking
- Keep in as high a gear as possible

Travelling on foot:
- Suitable clothing and footwear is vital. We would recommend that you wear walking boots and use public transport where possible

Help your community
You can help to keep your local area free of ice and snow by clearing it from pavements and by helping your neighbours. You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself.

It is unlikely that you’ll be held responsible if someone is injured on a pavement if you have cleared it carefully and followed the snow code which can be viewed here www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Sheffield gritting facts
- We have 19 gritters with ploughs
- It takes approximately 3 hours to grit our priority 1 route and 5 ½ hours to grit our priority 2 route
- The combined priority 1 and 2 grit run is over 130 miles long - the distance from Sheffield to Newcastle
- Salt only works on temperatures above -8°C. Below this, grit is used
- We have around 2000 grit bins across Sheffield for the public to use

For more information
If you have any questions, please telephone Customer Services on 0114 273 4567, visit our dedicated webpage at www.sheffield.gov.uk/winter or follow us on twitter for real time updates @sccstreetsahead #sygri