



Looe Town Council Emergency Planning Information

Snow and Ice



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1. Driving in snow and ice

Driving in snow, ice and wintry conditions requires extra care and preparation, and you should only drive where absolutely necessary. Please read Cornwall council guidelines on [safe winter driving](#).

2. Gritting routes

You can also view maps and information about [gritting and the gritting routes across Cornwall](#), and our [winter service procedures](#) which contains detailed procedures on how Cornwall Council maintains Cornish roads during winter. Areas that will be salted over the next 24 hours can be seen on the Cornwall Council [road conditions and treatment](#) page.

3. Clearing snow and ice yourself

Contrary to popular belief, there is no law stopping you from clearing your local pavements and pathways, providing you take a careful and common sense approach. To find out more, read the law on clearing snow and ice from public space.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121015000000/www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

4. How to clear snow

Clearing snow is hard work and the most important thing is to look after yourself when doing so. If you are going to remove snow and ice, here are some tips:

- start as early as possible - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- never use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- spreading salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work, if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives
- a small handful of salt (about 20g) is sufficient to cover a square metre of cleared surface
- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property

5. Where to get salt/grit

The salt in the yellow salt bins is to be used on the public highway only. If you wish to clear your driveway or footpaths, salt can be purchased from local building suppliers and DIY stores, or, as an alternative, you can use table salt or dishwasher salt.

6. When at home in winter weather

- Prepare to be isolated for at least three days.
- Prepare an emergency pack for the home: Shown below
 - *Wind up or battery powered radio and torch.*
 - *Spare batteries.*
 - *First aid kit and medication.*
 - *Food that does not need preparation or cooking and a can opener.*
 - *Bottled water.*
 - *Warm clothing or blankets.*
 - *A list of useful telephone numbers, do not rely on your mobile phone address book.*
 - *Toiletries - wet wipes, hand sanitisers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorants, hairbrush, and feminine supplies.*
 - *Spare keys for your house and car.*
 - *Important documents including copies of personnel identification and insurance details.*
- Have a supply of rock salt to melt ice.
- Make sure walls and attics are insulated before winter.

7. When going out in winter weather by car

- While driving always take extra care and adjust your driving to suit the conditions.
- Never assume a road has been gritted. No road can be guaranteed to be free of ice or snow and black ice is often invisible.
- Only drive if absolutely necessary, use public transport if possible.
- Check the weather forecast before starting out.
- Try to use primary roads.
- Allow extra time for your journey.
- Ensure your vehicle is in good order, lights and indicators are clear, anti freeze has been added to its radiator, and low freezing screen wash is in the washer bottle.
- Fill your fuel tank regularly.
- Tune into your local radio station for travel news.
- Have emergency items in your car including:

- Warm coat, extra clothing and suitable winter footwear.
- Blanket or sleeping bag.
- Torch and extra batteries.
- Shovel.
- Water and snacks.
- Tow rope or chain.
- Jump leads.
- Mobile phone.

8. If you get stuck in a remote area.

- Pull off the road
- Turn on your hazard lights
- Remain in your vehicle
- Only leave the car if there is a building very close in which you can shelter
- Take turns sleeping so you can see or hear rescue teams.

9. Highways Agency information

- [The Highways Agency - Be prepared - is your vehicle ready for winter?](#)
- [The Highways Agency - Be informed - have you checked the latest traffic and weather?.](#)
- [Meteorological Office](#) - Weather conditions.
- [GOV.UK - Highway Code](#)
- [Highways Agency](#) - Traffic conditions.

Another useful site is Cornwall Council FAQ: [Cornwall Council - Ask a question](#)

Any further assistance you may need please contact Simon Townly Looe Community Officer.

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