

PREPARING FOR WINTER....AND THE SNOW CODE

Councillors have already been approached by Callington residents about severe weather preparations and grit bins. Please find below these FAQs ...

Who can use Grit Bins?

Cornwall Council will position grit bins, and ensure they're checked and refilled, to allow motorists and communities to carry out 'self-help' on the public highway. Town Council staff do NOT undertake gritting from them. Anyone using a grit bin for 'self-help' (doing so responsibly without endangering others) needs not fear liability.

Will I be liable if I engage in self-help on the public highway?

Providing you act responsibly, and do not create alternative hazards, there's no reason to fear liability. However, if you act negligently, you could be liable. Many home insurance policies (see your "contents" insurance) cover your legal liability to others as a private individual – check with your insurer.

Where can I use the salt/grit?

Salt is provided to the town exclusively for use on roads and pavements to aid in safe passage. Please DO NOT use it on private drives and footpaths – they are your own responsibility. You should obtain salt for private use from builders' merchants.

My local grit bin is empty – how do I get it refilled?

Call Cornwall Council on 0300 1234 222 and give the location of the bin. It's not cost effective to refill bins individually during the winter but Cornwall Council plan to refill them when several in an area are known to be empty.

What should I do during severe weather?

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully.

Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely.

THE SNOW CODE

Prevent slips

- If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make paths more dangerous by causing them to refreeze.
- Don't be put off because you're afraid someone will get injured.
- People walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Clear snow or ice early in the day

- Move fresh snow rather than packed snow.
- Remove snow and ice in the morning. Sunshine during the day will help melt ice beneath.
- Cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing.

Use salt or sand - not water

- Water may refreeze to form black ice, increasing risk of injury.
- Prevent black ice by spreading salt on areas you have cleared.
- Use table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon per square metre.
- Pay attention to steps and steep paths - use more salt on these.

- Don't spread salt on plants or grass - it may cause damage.
- You can also use sand or ash. They aren't as effective as salt, but provide good grip.
- Don't use salt found in salting bins - this is needed to keep roads clear.

Take care when moving snow

- Don't block paths or drains.
- 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 to the sides.

Clear neighbours' paths

- Offer to clear around your neighbours' property. Check that elderly or disabled neighbours are alright. If worried about them, contact your local council.

Please remember: removing salt and grit for use on private drives means very little is used for the greater good of the public.