

Winter Service FAQ

- € The City Council aims to keep the most important roads and footways in Leeds safe and as free as possible from wintry hazards.
- € To do this the Council spreads salt to prevent ice and snow forming. If snow settles ploughs are used to help keep the roads clear.
- € Because it is impossible for the gritters to spread salt on every road in Leeds, salt bins are provided at some steep locations or busy footway areas to assist the road users on a self help basis.
- € These operations are called **Winter Service**.
- € The process starts in October each year and continues 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week until the last frosts of spring.

How and when do we salt?

- € Council Officers receive a weather forecast around midday every day and the appropriate action is decided.
- € A fleet of 30 gritters are used to spread salt or plough the roads as necessary.

Which roads are salted?

- € The main salt spreading routes include all the main roads, other busy roads, bus routes, and access roads to hospitals and emergency service depots.
- € There are 1865 miles of roads in Leeds of which 800 miles are salted, and these roads form the **Primary Salting Network (PSN)**.
- € The **PSN** is always salted when any wintry hazards are forecast and will receive priority attention during prolonged wintry weather.
- € If wintry conditions persist and the **PSN** is safe and clear of hazards, attention will be given to other roads. Secondary salting will usually begin with through routes in housing estates and built up areas, and will move to the less busy side roads and cul-de-sacs during the day.

Which footways are salted?

- € Footways and paved areas with exceptionally high usage in the city centre are always salted when ice is predicted.
- € Footways in town and district centres with high foot traffic, shopping areas, precincts, large schools, and hospitals will be salted during severe weather.
- € The remaining footways will be salted in response to circumstances.

Why salt?

- € Salt lowers the freezing point of water, reducing the risk of ice forming.
- € Salt alone has a limited effect on snow and ice, it requires moving traffic to crush the salt to form a salt solution, which prevents ice forming. We can only plough when snow becomes deep enough, 25mm or 1 inch.

What we are unable to do

- € Guarantee Ice free roads.
- € We cannot always avoid spreading salt at peak traffic periods.
- € We cannot salt all roads or footways as this would be an enormous task.
- € We cannot provide salt bins on all roads and footways. Over 850 salt bins have been provided on a need basis for self help.

How to contact us

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