

Clearing snow

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has received many queries from residents, businesses and town and parish councils seeking guidance on how to help with snow clearing during periods of bad weather. The council applauds and fully supports such community spirit and sets out some guidance to remember when clearing ice and snow from footpaths.

What the council does

The council treats the main routes (defined roads) and a limited number of footpaths when ice or snow is forecast beyond mid-day. Whilst this helps to ensure a strategic network of key routes are open many roads and paths are left untreated. This is where you can make a positive contribution towards helping your local community.

To support residents, the council provides salt in bins or piles at many locations throughout the East Riding (some town and parish councils also fund salt bins in addition to these). The council fill the bins at the start of each year and again when they are notified that they need refilling. However, the speed at which they can be refilled does depend on prevailing conditions with the priority being treatment of the defined roads.

What you can do

The salt in the bins is provided for residents to use on roads and paths. When salt is spread it helps prevent the formation of ice and softens snow prior to its removal. Residents should be careful not to put themselves at risk when spreading the salt or removing snow. Moving and spreading salt can be physically challenging so if you have any health problems for example back or heart problems we would recommend you seek assistance from neighbours.

Salt is very effective and requires only a small amount spread over a wide area to stop ice forming, all types of salt are effective for example dishwasher or even table salt works well when treating household paths and drives.

As a general guide you should always ensure that the situation is better and safer when you have finished than it was before you started. The following precautions will help to ensure that this is the case:

- Take appropriate steps to ensure your own health and safety (such as wearing high visibility clothing, gloves with a good grip and good quality boots)
- Always put salt on the path after you have shovelled away snow to prevent the residual film icing over
- Salt does not need to be spread like sand. An amount similar to a bag of sugar is enough to treat ten paces of footpath. For areas away from the salt bin a bucket or even a wheelbarrow, if one is available, would be useful to transport some salt.
- Do not pile up snow where it will block or obstruct the footpath, access to property or road in any way
- Avoid using water as it may freeze and make the situation more hazardous
- Take care to ensure all hand tools are removed from the highway

When clearing snow it is possible to make conditions worse if you do not follow the precautions listed above. If you do act in a safe way and follow these precautions then you will be helping your community in a positive and safe way and minimise the risk of anyone being injured as a result of your actions.

For more information please visit www.eastriding.gov.uk email highways.customer.care@eastriding.gov.uk or telephone 0845 6001666.

Why not try a pair of pull over 'snow and ice grips (cleats)? A number of high street and online retailers sell these products that provide more support when walking on snow and ice.

