

Winter Service Information Leaflet

KEEPING TRAFFIC ON THE MOVE



Department for
Infrastructure

An Roinn
Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

DfI Roads aims to help traffic on main roads move safely in wintry conditions by spreading salt at the most effective times. Staff are on standby 24 hours a day to monitor and react according to the conditions.

What roads do DfI Roads salt?

DfI Roads focuses its resources on important routes carrying over 80% of traffic:

- Main through routes carrying more than 1,500 vehicles per day.
- Other busy through routes carrying more than 1,000 vehicles per day may be included if there are difficult circumstances.
- Special allowance is made for school and other buses by a weighting factor, e.g. a 40 seater bus is counted as 40 vehicles.
- Links to small settlements, (100 dwellings or more) via the shortest route to the main salted road.
- On more lightly trafficked roads salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public on a self help basis.
- Special arrangements are in place for rural schools that face particular difficulties.
- All other routes are normally not salted.

When does salting take place?

The Winter Service season starts on the 1st of October and ends on the 30th April each year. This can be extended if necessary. The Met Office provides DfI Roads with special weather forecasts.



When is salt not normally spread?

- When heavy rain is occurring, due to the risk of salt wash-off.
- On dry roads where frost is not predicted to form.
- In the middle of the night and on roads with fewer vehicles, as traffic is required to turn salt into de-icing solution.

What happens in heavy snow conditions?

We direct all available resources to clearing routes in the following priority order:

1. Motorway and trunk road network.
2. The remainder of the salted network.
3. The remainder of the public road network.

It may be some time before we work through all the priorities.

Try to ensure your vehicle does not block access for winter service vehicles, (abandoned and stationary vehicles are the main cause of obstruction).

Advice when driving in icy or snowy conditions.

The best advice to motorists is given in the Highway Code for Northern Ireland.

- Drive with care even if the roads have been salted.
- Be prepared for the road conditions changing over relatively short distances.
- Take care when overtaking salt spreading machinery.

Many motorists now fit winter tyres to give their vehicles more grip in icy or snowy conditions.



Clearing ice and snow from footways

DfI Roads does not normally salt footways but, where resources permit, will work with Councils during prolonged periods of snow and ice to clear footways in busy town centres.

People often ask if legally they can clear snow and ice. The fact is there's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the footway outside your home or from public spaces.

In 2010, the Attorney General for Northern Ireland advised if you clear snow/ice carefully you are unlikely to be held liable.

Commercial property owners in particular should make sure that they have adequate supplies of salt in place to ensure the safety of employees and visitors.

Salt bins are provided to allow salt to be spread on adjacent public roads, on a self help basis.

Unfortunately, we cannot issue salt to members of the public at DfI Roads Depots, largely because these are workplaces with heavy vehicles turning and reversing.

Tips on clearing ice and snow.

Clear ice/snow early in the day: Loose snow is easier removed than hard snow which has packed together from people walking on it.

Use salt or sand – NOT water: If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice which is invisible and very slippery.

Take care where you move the snow to: When you are shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains.

Prevent slips: Pay extra attention to clear ice and snow from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas.

No guarantees for ice free roads.

Despite everyone's best efforts there is no guarantee that roads will always be completely free of ice.

Remember:

- Salting time: It takes up to 3.5 hours to salt a route so your journey may start or end on an untreated section of the route.
- If it rains the salt may be washed away and ice may form.
- The weather forecasts are not always 100 per cent accurate.

Details of all our Salting Routes are available from our Divisional offices

(contact details below).

HEADQUARTERS

Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street,
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Tel: (028) 9054 0540

NORTHERN DIVISION

County Hall, Castlerock Road,
Coleraine, BT51 3HS
Tel: 0300 200 7891
Emergency After Hours (028) 7035 3202

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Marlborough House, Central Way,
Craigavon, BT64 1AD
Tel: 0300 200 7892
Emergency After Hours (028) 3752 9500

EASTERN DIVISION

Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road,
Belfast, BT8 8JL
Tel: 0300 200 7893
Tel: (028) 9025 3000 (24 Hours)

WESTERN DIVISION

County Hall, Drumragh Avenue,
Omagh, BT79 7AF
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For more information see our websites at
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
www.nidirect.gov.uk

Main Salting Routes

The salted network in Northern Ireland is fairly extensive and the size of this map only enables the main salting routes to be shown.

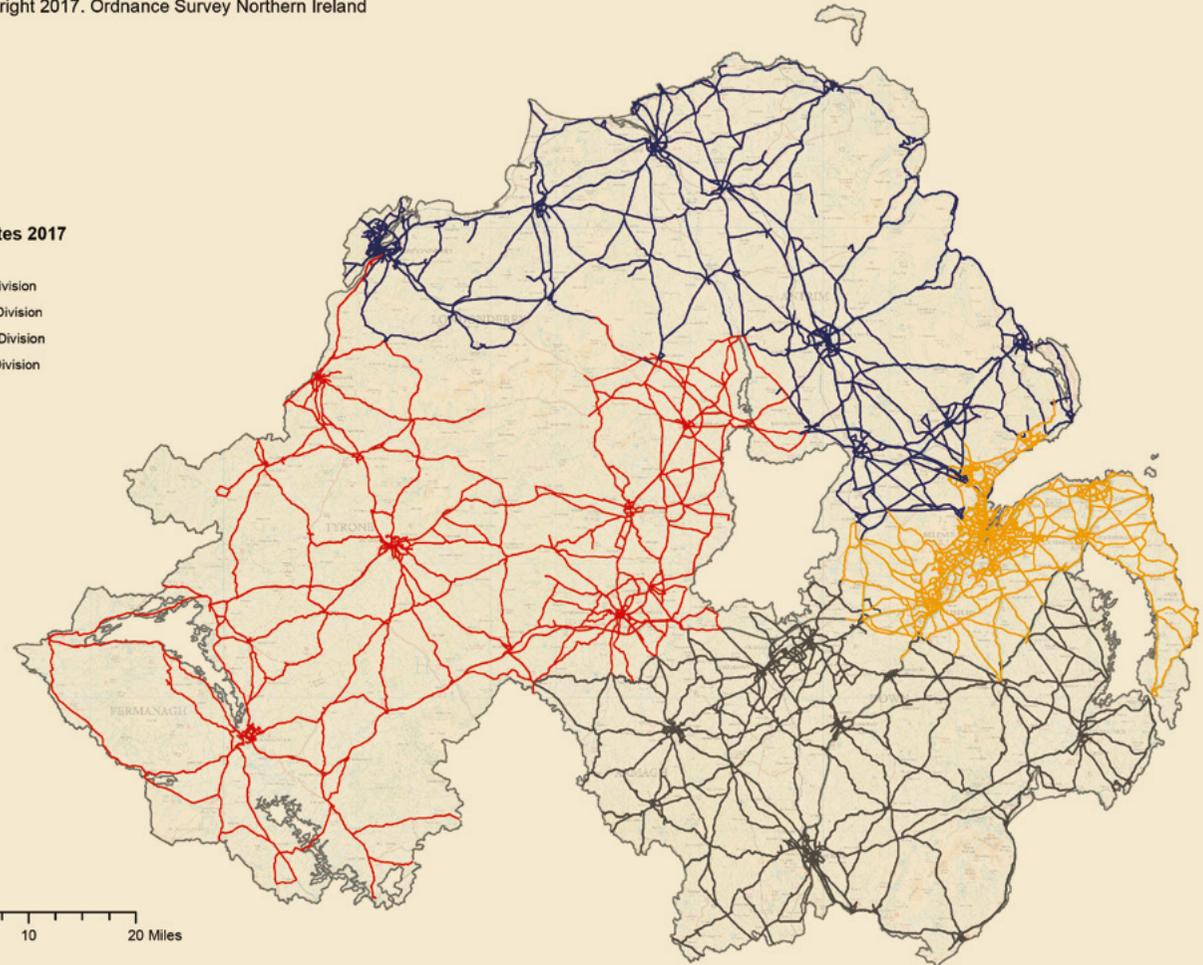
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Key

Gritting Routes 2017 Route

- Eastern Division
- Northern Division
- Southern Division
- Western Division

0 5 10 20 Miles



Key

- Northern Division
- Eastern Division
- Southern Division
- Western Division

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