The Ayrshire Roads Alliance aims to provide an effective and efficient winter service to allow the safe movement of people and vehicles during severe cold weather conditions.

This leaflet provides an overview of our winter service plans and the action that will be taken by the Alliance on behalf of East and South Ayrshire Councils, during periods of severe weather.

The full winter service plans are available here: www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org/winterplan/
East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council have a statutory responsibility, under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to take reasonable steps to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians on public roads we are responsible for.

**Gritting**

As part of our winter roads treatments, we use salt to make our roads and footways – pavements and footpaths – as safe as possible and to reduce delays caused by bad weather.

Salting is normally carried out in the late evening, overnight or early morning, as that’s when frost usually starts to affect road surfaces.

*The winter service plans identify the priorities for treating roads and footways:*

**Gritting priorities**

We prioritise the roads and footways we grit in terms of primary and secondary routes and treat all primary routes in a precautionary salting operation.

The appropriate treatment is determined by the prevailing weather conditions, and we monitor these closely.

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**Our gritting priorities are:**

- **Main distributor roads** which link the main residential and commercial areas. At least one access to each school is included in this category.
- **Local access roads** which distribute traffic within a district and link the main distributor roads with the general access roads. At least one road into each residential area as well as roads that have steep gradients or tight bends are included.
- **General access roads** which provide access to residential areas. All primary routes will be treated before 0730 hours and we aim to complete the precautionary salting of routes within three hours from the start of the treatment. However, when adverse weather is forecast and more grit needs to be applied, this may take longer. Access roads to ambulance depots, main police stations, fire stations, main bus routes and at least one road to every primary and secondary school are gritted during the treatment of primary routes.
• Footways in town centres and pedestrian precincts (but not those associated with the trunk road network – major roads like the A77 or A78.)

• Footways adjacent to health centres, residential homes for the elderly, and schools. Footways with steep gradients or drainage problems will also be treated.

Unadopted roads and private roads

Roads and footways that are not on the List of Public Roads maintained by both councils will not receive treatment. This includes private roads and those on new housing developments which are still the responsibility of the developer.

Other areas of council responsibility including schools, parks, cemeteries and day-care centres are dealt with by the relevant department.

Weather prediction

During the winter, Meteo Group UK Ltd provides the Ayrshire Roads Alliance with bespoke weather forecasts every day, including ice predictions and these determine what gritting action is to be taken.

Visit www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org/grittingplan/

Winter facts

• In severe weather, it may not be possible to keep all our roads, even priority routes, free from snow and ice at all times. Our winter resources (gritters, snow ploughs and drivers) are limited and we will always target the most important roads and footways first.
• In freezing temperatures, ice will form, and if it rains, salt already spread will be washed off and it will take a number of hours to re-salt our defined routes.
• After salt is applied, it will take time before the ice starts to melt.
• Snow will lie if it is snowing heavily. We will try to keep the main routes clear, but in such severe conditions, even if we are ploughing a route continuously, the snow will inevitably build up until the snow plough gets back again.
• We cannot treat roads that are obstructed by inconsiderate parking. Snow ploughs are large and difficult to manoeuvre, even more so when road conditions are slippery.

Be prepared and drive safely

If your journey is not absolutely necessary please stay at home during severe weather.

If you must travel allow extra time for your journey and check road reports regularly on local radio stations like West Sound Radio – 1035AM / 96.7 FM.

• Police Scotland has the power to close roads during severe weather and will notify the local media when a decision is taken.
• Be prepared; carry a blanket, flask, snacks and a snow shovel in case your vehicle becomes snow bound.
• Ensure you have enough fuel as poor conditions can increase fuel consumption.

Community resilience

Grit bins have been introduced across the area in key locations to encourage community resilience. Your nearest grit bin is listed at www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org

Grit and salt in grit bins is intended for self help in treating the public roads and footways only; use on private property is not permitted.

Trunk road responsibilities

Scotland TranServe, as the appointed Trunk Road Operator, is responsible for treating the M77, A76, A77 and A78 trunk road network across East and South Ayrshire.

For more information call Traffic Scotland on: 0800 085 7136

For more information on our winter service plans, gritting routes and other roads services, visit: www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org
Contact us

You can report faults online or call:

East Ayrshire Council road faults
0845 724 0000

South Ayrshire Council road faults
0300 123 0900

E: enquiries@ ayrshireroadsalliance.org
W: www. ayrshireroadsalliance.org
@ ayrshireroads