

# WINTER MAINTENANCE

There are 3258 km of roads in Herefordshire. Of these, 930 km are included in the routes to receive precautionary salting. We use 15 gritters on different routes around the county and aim to have them all completed in two and a half hours. In cold weather, other roads may be icy and in prolonged freezing weather or snow we carry out salting on important minor routes.

During the winter maintenance season (October to April) the road conditions are monitored on a daily basis. This is done using 6 roadside stations. We also receive a local weather forecast from the Met Office each day. This enables us to decide when precautionary salting is necessary.

It costs £550,000 per year to carry out precautionary salting and we use an average of 6,500 tonnes of salt, spread at a rate of between 10g and 20g per square metre.

The trunk roads are maintained by the Highways Agency through their agents AmeyMouchel. In Herefordshire these are the M50, the A40, A49 and the A465 from Belmont roundabout in Hereford, south west towards Abergavenny (as far as the Welsh Border).

## Winter Driving Tips

### Before you go:

- Is your journey essential?
- Allow an extra 10 minutes to prepare the car.
- Make sure all windows and mirrors are clean and clear from frost, ice or snow and carry a scraper and de-icer.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Make sure your wipers and lights are clean and in good working order.
- Would it be a good idea to take a torch, blanket, food, Wellingtons, warm clothing and a spade?
- Tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to arrive.

### When driving:

- Allow extra time for your journey.
- Adjust your driving to suit the conditions.
- Remember stopping distances can be 10 times longer in ice and snow compared to a dry road.
- Apply the brakes gently and manoeuvre carefully.
- When there is poor visibility or snow, use dipped headlights.
- If you ever have to abandon your car, try to keep it out of the way of gritters and let the local police know.

As Herefordshire Council is committed to improving its service, if you have any comments or suggestions on the Winter Maintenance Service, please write to Herefordshire Council, Freepost SWC2293, Hereford, HR1 2BS.

## CONTACT DETAILS

For trunk roads contact:  
(M50, A40, A49, A465  
SW of Hereford)

WHOLE COUNTY  
- 01432 261800

AMEYMOUCHEL 0121 254 1300

Out of Hours Emergency for  
Whole County - 01432 260000



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