

Winter Services in West Lothian



Gritting
Snow clearing
Winter driving tips
Contact numbers



How you can help:

- Share information with friends and neighbours, and spare a moment for vulnerable neighbours.
- Park sensibly - abandoned vehicles can cause serious issues.
- Sign up for the email alert on the council's website.
- If you are able, clear the path and pavement in front of your home.
- Look out for the winter Bulletin and keep it handy.

For more information visit: westlothian.gov.uk/winter
Visit your local Customer Information Service (CIS)
centre or library or telephone 01506 280000.



For more information
scan this QR code with
your smartphone



Winter Services

How we deal with roads and footways in West Lothian

Every winter West Lothian Council has to treat over 1,000km of roads and 1,300 km of footways to combat the effects of bad weather.

In this leaflet we have set out our plan for treating roads and footways. There is also some self help on the back page. We hope you find the leaflet useful but please contact us on the numbers below if you have any further queries.

Where possible, we treat major roads and important bus routes prior to the formation of ice. When it snows these important routes are treated first. We operate this service over 24 hours when necessary.

Once these primary routes have been completed, we treat secondary routes such as those in housing estates during normal working hours.

We also deal with footways on a priority basis. In ice and snow conditions footways leading to schools, hospitals, health centres, shopping areas and where there is heavy pedestrian movement are treated first. Main routes to residential areas follow, with internal footways in housing areas being treated as resources permit. In addition over 2,500 grit bins are positioned throughout West Lothian for use by members of the public.

This policy of priorities has been adopted by the Council to ensure that the most important areas are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Note:

The M8 and M9 motorways are maintained by BEAR Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The contact number for BEAR Scotland is given below.

Contact numbers

For: Policy on route priorities; Requests for new grit bin or refills; General comments/ information on service provision;	Call: 01506 280000 24 hour contact number
For: M8/M9 - BEAR Scotland	Call: 24 hour contact number 0800 028 1414



The service you can expect

West Lothian Council is responsible for providing a Winter Service on adopted roads and footpaths within the Council Area. The normal period of operation extends from the last Thursday in October till the last Thursday in March.

It is important to appreciate that it is not possible to treat all routes simultaneously. In view of this, the council must adopt a priority system to ensure that the treatment is targeted to areas of greatest need first.

Carriageways	Road Type	Treatment
Primary Routes (SNOW ROUTES)	Roads of primary importance which form a strategic network, these being Strategic, Main Distributor and Secondary Distributor roads including main traffic routes, bus routes connecting neighbouring council areas, major industrial estates, routes to railway stations and routes to Emergency Service establishments.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing 24 hours a day on all days. Pre grit if required. Planned or reactive.
Secondary Routes Level 1	Other classified routes, distributor routes, local bus routes, main accesses to schools, medical centres and residential areas.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours i.e. 0800 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday. Pre grit as resources allow.
Secondary Routes Level 2	Residential areas and other unclassified roads.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours i.e. 0800 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.
Secondary Routes Level 3	Surfaced areas within schools, routes to car parks and car park surfaces.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours i.e. 0800 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.



Footways

Footway Type

Treatment

Primary Routes

(SNOW ROUTES)

Urban shopping areas and precincts. Routes to schools, accesses to health centres and medical centres, hospitals, etc. main routes to residential areas and bus stops.

During November and March, gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing 0500 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday. **During December, January and February** the service will be extended to cover weekends and public holidays (0500 to 1505 hours). Reactive treatment only.

Secondary Routes

Level 1

Other routes to schools, residential areas and housing areas in general.

Gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing 0800 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday.
Reactive treatment only.

Secondary Routes

Level 2

Footway links to car parks, community centres, day centres etc and cycle routes.

Gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing 0800 to 1505 hours Monday to Friday.
Reactive treatment only.

Tips for winter driving

- Clear all snow and ice from your car before you set off.
- In severe conditions - don't travel. Allow the roads to be cleared first. Remember, if you attempt to drive in such conditions, and get stuck, the gritter won't get through.
- Leave early. It takes longer to get about in bad weather.
- Reduce your speed - take care on the roads - you can't always tell if a route has been treated.
- Use dipped headlights in poor visibility.
- Drive in the highest gear possible and avoid harsh braking and acceleration.
- Keep a safe distance behind other vehicles.
- Watch out for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Please be patient.



Extreme Weather Event

An extreme weather event will be considered to be an event where continuous snow is forecast and likely to give significant accumulations in excess of 10cm covering the whole of the north or south expanse within the council area. The snow will also be expected to remain in untreated areas for a prolonged period due to low temperatures before a natural thaw disperses it.

During periods of extreme weather and heavy continuous snowfall when roads and footways are affected by significant levels of lying snow, priority will be given to primary carriageway routes and primary footpath routes and these routes will be known as West Lothian Council's "Snow Routes". These routes are defined within the Council Policy and will be published on the Council Website. Gritters and footpath resources will be deployed on these specified snow routes continuously until satisfactory snow clearance has been achieved before resources are deployed to any secondary routes.

The policy is aimed at providing a minimum strategic network during periods of extreme weather and will provide access to key facilities and other transport needs.

Resilience and Salt Conservation

West Lothian Council procures and stocks salt supplies for use on the whole of the public carriageway and footway network during the winter period. A stock level of 30,000 tonnes of salt will be available for the winter period.

In periods of an extreme weather event or periods of prolonged conditions that demand a high usage of salt it may be necessary to restrict the use of salt to snow routes only. For West Lothian Council, salt will be restricted to snow routes when the council reaches a minimum stock level of salt for 6 days resilience of continuous salting.

Strategic Self-Help Salt Pick-Up Points

25 self-help strategic salt pick-up points are provided at the following locations which will assist with community self-help during periods of winter weather.

Armadale	Garage Site, Mcneil Crescent
Bathgate	Xcite Centre, Torphichen Road
Bathgate (Wester Inch)	Car Park adjacent to play area in Leyland Road
Blackburn	Partnership Centre, Ash Grove
Blackridge	Craig Inn Community Centre, Main Street
Bridgend	Car Park at Community Centre
Broxburn	Xcite Centre, Church Street
Craigshill	Tower Public House Car Park, Adelaide Street
East Calder	Xcite Centre, Langton Road
Ecclesmachan	Oatridge College access Road
Eliburn	Livingston North Train Station (south car park)
Fauldhouse	Eastfield Road car park near the bottle banks
Greenrigg	Polkemmet Drive garage site
Kirknewton	Sports Pavilion
Linlithgow	Xcite Centre, McGinley Way
Livingston Village	Car Park at rear of Livingston Inn
Murieston	Livingston South Train Station Car Park
Newton	Community Education Centre
Threemiletown	B9080 opposite Rosebank
Torphichen	Community Centre, Bowyett
West Calder	Business Centre, Dickson Street
Westfield	North end of Strathlogie
Whitburn	Xcite Centre, Jubilee Road
Wilkieston	Linburn Park
Winchburgh	Community Centre, Craigton Place

Self Help - What Can You Do?

There is no law preventing members of the public from clearing snow and ice from public roads and footways outside their properties and businesses. However, people should exercise care and caution when attempting to undertake any snow clearing so that they do not create any further hazards through careless or inconsiderate actions.

Being a good neighbour during severe winter weather is usually welcomed. Detailed below is some advice provided by the government on clearing roads and footways yourself:-

1. Do not use hot water as this could freeze, increasing the risk of injury to persons.
2. Choose suitable clothing for the task to ensure that you remain warm, clearly visible to traffic and that footwear provides a good grip.
3. Do not take unnecessary risks in the road and be aware that vehicles may find it difficult to stop quickly in icy conditions.
4. If shovelling snow consider where you are going to put it to avoid shifting the problem elsewhere, for example, avoid blocking other footways and drainage features such as gullies.
5. Use a shovel with a wide blade and do not overload the shovel with snow.
6. It is easier to remove fresh snow before pedestrians have compressed the snow into compacted ice.
7. Clear a line down the middle of the area to be cleared first to create a safer surface to work from.
8. Spread some salt on the area cleared to prevent the formation of ice.
9. Do not use too much salt as a few grams, about a tablespoon, for each square metre that you clear should be sufficient.
10. If there is no salt available then a little sand or grit is a reasonable substitute. It will not have the same de-icing properties as salt but will improve grip underfoot.
11. Salt applied to the road or footway could be washed away by rain or snow and subsequently freeze – in this case a further application of salt should be used soon after the rain has ceased and before temperatures approach freezing.
12. Particular care and attention should be given to steps and steep gradients to ensure that snow and ice is removed – it may be beneficial to apply additional salt at these locations to reduce the risk of injury.