

# Snow Friends

## Guidance Notes

The following guidance notes are designed to help you to act in a neighbourly way by safely clearing snow and ice from pavements and public spaces.

- > Please ensure that you are physically fit enough to carry out snow clearance.
- > Wear suitable warm, waterproof clothing and footwear with good grip. It is better to wear several layers of loose fitting clothes for warmth.
- > Start early: it is much easier to remove fresh, loose snow rather than compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- > Do not use hot water. This will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- > Take care when working by the road, particularly if children are assisting with snow removal.
- > Some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths leading to their property or the footway fronting their property. Snowfall and cold weather pose particular difficulties for them gaining access to and from their property or walking to the shops.
- > Take care as there may be obstructions under the snow.
- > If removing snow, consider where you are going to put it, so that it does not block people's paths, or block drainage channels.
- > Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre to the sides clearing a one metre (one yard) wide channel.
- > Avoid creating large piles of snow. Disperse snow evenly onto the grass verge or into the roadside.
- > Do not pile snow across access ways or in the middle of the road.
- > Spreading salt on the area you have cleared will help to prevent any ice forming. A cupful of salt 100 grams (4 oz) per square metre (square yard) is plenty. Each 10kg

(20lbs) bag of salt should therefore be sufficient for around a 100m (110yds) length of pavement. Table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants, bases of trees or grass as they may become damaged.

- > Always keep your back straight when using a snow scoop and lifting bags of salt/grit. Avoid lifting anything too heavy.
- > Particular care and attention should be given to steps and steep gradients to ensure snow and ice is removed. You may need to apply additional salt to these areas.
- > Use the sun to your advantage. Removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.
- > If there is no salt available, then a little grit, sand or ash is a reasonable substitute. It will not have the same de-icing properties as salt but should offer grip under foot.
- > Also be a good neighbour: keep an eye on elderly neighbours during snowy periods

## Can I get sued for clearing snow?

There is no law preventing you from clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

It is very unlikely that you would face any legal liability, as long as you are careful and use common sense to ensure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. To date, nobody has been sued to clearing snow.

People walking on areas affected by snow and ice also have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

For more information please visit:

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/severeweatherguidance](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/severeweatherguidance)



Be a good neighbour and help out your community this winter

# Snow Friends

## What does the Council Do?

When the road temperatures are predicted to be at or below freezing, our gritting crews will be salting the main routes across the Borough. This work usually takes place at night or in the early hours of the morning. We use detailed local forecasts from the Met. Office to predict when frost or ice is likely to form on the road surface.

### Priority routes

It is not practical to attempt to salt all of Bromley's 500 miles of road on a frosty morning, and to make best use of the resources available, we have established priority routes.

Our precautionary salting effort focuses on:

- Main roads
- Bus routes
- Roads leading to fire and ambulance stations, hospitals and schools
- Other hazardous places such as steep hills.

Up to 200 miles of the Borough's priority routes can be salted on a winter morning.

For more information on our winter gritting operations, please visit [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

Whilst Bromley is fully prepared to respond to warnings of snow and ice, there is a limit to the scale of the response. This means that, unfortunately, a number of Bromley's residential roads and pavements do not get treated. Snow Friends has been designed to provide a positive solution for snow removal in those roads which are not priority routes. It enables residents to work together, under the guidance of the Council, to clear their local residential streets of snow.

### Report difficulties on Bromley's roads during heavy snow.

In the event of heavy snow please call: **020 8313 4557**. This number will operate during office hours only while there is snow affecting Bromley's roads and pavements

## What are Snow Friends?

Snow Friends are local residents who volunteer to clear snow and ice in their street, working in partnership with a local community group or Residents Association. Bromley Council provides the necessary supplies to assist with this, subject to availability.

Each group is led by a co-ordinator who will:

- Liaise with Bromley Council and their group.
- Promote the scheme to neighbours.
- Inform the council of the streets which their group are willing to remove snow from.
- Take receipt of supplies for their group and arrange for its distribution/collection.
- Receive alerts regarding forecast snowfall within the Borough.
- Feedback their snow clearance success to the council.



## How can I get involved?

If you would like to join the Snow Friends scheme, please contact your local co-ordinator:

### Your Snow Friend co-ordinator is:

If the above box is blank, either contact us to join an existing group or you may want to create your own by promoting the scheme to your neighbours. Becoming a Snow Friends co-ordinator is easy – just contact the Bromley Snow Friends Team to register your interest.

### For further information please contact:

Customer Contact Centre

**Email:** [snow.friends@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:snow.friends@bromley.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 8313 4557

Environmental Services  
Streetscene and Greenspace  
London Borough of Bromley  
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close,  
Bromley, BR1 3BR

Snow Friends leaflets are available on request or they can be downloaded by clicking on the link at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/snowfriends](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/snowfriends)

All applicants for this year's Snow Friends scheme are required to notify the Council before 31st October

