

*A GUIDE TO*  
**WINTER  
MAINTENANCE**  
*In The Vale of Glamorgan*



**HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE  
DIVISION**

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**HIGHWAYS**

Vale of Glamorgan has over 1013 km of adopted highways and over 41% are pre-treated (salted) when there is a forecast of ice or snow. The Highway Maintenance Division is responsible for all of the adopted roads within the Vale, with the exception of the M4.

**POLICY**

The Vale of Glamorgan's policy on Winter Maintenance is to ensure that all roads that are subject to pre-salting are salted before the onset of ice. In addition, during severe weather (abnormal, icy/snow conditions) a reactive salt spreading/snow clearance service will be undertaken as far as reasonably practical.

**WEATHER**

The Council has a contract with a weather forecasting service and each day around lunchtime the latest information is analysed and the pre-salting proposals for that day planned. An update is provided each hour by digital computer link using the latest computer software. The Council has six dedicated weather stations strategically placed around the Vale and via computer / modem, Highway Engineers obtain the latest actual and forecast graphs and conditions. In this way the predicted time of ice formation can be predetermined and the salting actions planned. It also prevents unnecessary salting by



monitoring the amount of salt on the road surface.

The decision to salt is based on the **road** temperature and not **air** temperature. Frost on car windscreens and grass or even external temperature monitors on cars are not true indicators. Salting is carried out when road temperatures are forecast to fall below zero and damp conditions are expected. Salting is usually planned to take place outside the peak traffic periods.

### SAFETY

The Winter Maintenance Service is provided to make your journeys as safe as possible for the conditions and to minimise any delays.

### PRE-SALTING ROUTES

The Council has prioritised the highway network and pre-determined the pre-salting routes.



These routes have been determined as:

- **Strategic routes**
- **Major roads**
- **Important industrial commercial routes**
- **Providing an access in and out of villages and towns**
- **Safety considerations i.e. roads at risk**

### SNOW PLAN

In the event of severe snow, the Council, as part of its emergency procedures, has a pre-determined snow plan. During such conditions all normal highway maintenance activities will cease and the priority given to keeping the roads clear and mobilising all available resources. An emergency room is established and liaison with all emergency services, the media and service providers takes place. The priority for snow clearance is as follows:



- Strategic routes
- Major roads
- Important industrial commercial routes
- Providing an access in and out of villages and towns
- Routes serving hospitals, fire services, ambulance station and schools
- Bus and milk collection routes
- Footways in shopping areas
- Other roads giving access to other built-up areas
- Roads serving isolated farms and houses

### SALT BINS

Salt bins are strategically provided across the Vale. They are available for immediate use by road users when required. If you observe that any such bins have been damaged or need re-filling, please contact us.



### DID YOU KNOW

- ❖ From October to April the Council provides a dedicated Winter Maintenance Service operating out of the Alps complex, Wenvoe
- ❖ A fleet of 9 purpose made gritters is available 24 hours a day
- ❖ A stock of 2500 tonnes of salt is kept in a covered facility
- ❖ 6 weather stations across the Vale linked to a weather service provider, provide the most up-to-date weather conditions
- ❖ Continual monitoring and assessment is maintained during this period using portable laptop computers and the latest software
- ❖ A team of experienced highway engineers provide round the clock 24 hour cover to evaluate the weather information and judge the need for salting
- ❖ Within 4 hours of mobilising, all routes are salted



### YOUR SAFETY

The Vale of Glamorgan provides a Winter Maintenance Service to keep you safe, but please ensure that you always drive with caution. In snow conditions be prepared for delays. Take extra care and ensure that you have warm clothes in the event of an emergency.