

Driving in severe weather

Always adjust your driving according to the conditions and plan your journey by checking the latest weather conditions.

Make sure you can see clearly and that you can be seen. Clear ice and snow off all windows and lights before you set off.

Use at least dipped headlights in poor visibility – and don't just rely on daytime running lights if you have them.

During your journey remember this critical question:

If I had to brake suddenly in an emergency, could I stop safely within the distance I can clearly see ahead of me?

Pay extra attention to planning your journey in severe weather. Before you travel, ask yourself these questions:

- Is my car ready for the journey?
- Have I packed an emergency kit?
- Should I plan an alternative route for my journey?
- Have I checked my route for delays and poor weather conditions?
- Do I really need to travel now or can my journey wait until the weather improves?
- Will I need to change my driving style to suit the conditions?

When WINTER bites...

- facebook.com/winterhighways
- metoffice.gov.uk/winterhighways
Latest traffic and weather
- @winterhighways
- highways.gov.uk/traffic
- 0300 123 5000

If you get stuck
Use an emergency phone on the motorway if you can.
From your mobile: dial 999
My breakdown service
Membership number

Telephone number

Fold here



- Check weather forecast
- Plan around the weather
- Carry a winter kit
- Clear all windows and lights before setting off
- Drive according to the conditions
- Give yourself time



Are you Prepared?

When winter bites...

Have you got what it takes to keep going?

Is your vehicle ready?

Do you plan around the weather?

search winterhighways



Our winter fleet

Highways England looks after motorways and major A roads in England. We have more than 500 vehicles, including salt spreaders with snowplough attachments and snow blowers.

Other roads, maintained by local authorities, are treated according to local priorities, such as main roads, bus routes and access to communities.

Tank behind cab for brine solution or potassium acetate to spray in sensitive locations

Brine tanks on either side of vehicle for pre-wetting salt



Snow plough blade can be angled left or right

Rubber strip allows ploughing right to the road surface

How salt works

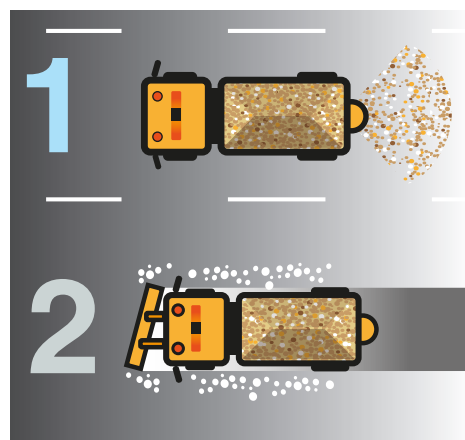
1 We spread salt to lower the freezing point of the road surface and prevent ice forming. Traffic helps turn the salt into a brine solution for it to be most effective. Our fleet is equipped to spread pre-wet salt, to speed up the process and reduce the amount needed.

Salt itself does not prevent snow from settling. The critical factor is the road surface temperature, which can be above or below air temperature depending on the weather over previous days.

2 Our aim is to provide a good layer of brine to suppress the point at which the road would freeze and snow start to settle.

But as each snowflake melts it also dilutes the solution. This is why heavy snow will settle and then accumulate despite significant pre-treatment.

At this stage we can clear snow out of the way using a plough right down to the road surface with rubber strips fitted across the width of the blades.



Your winter kit

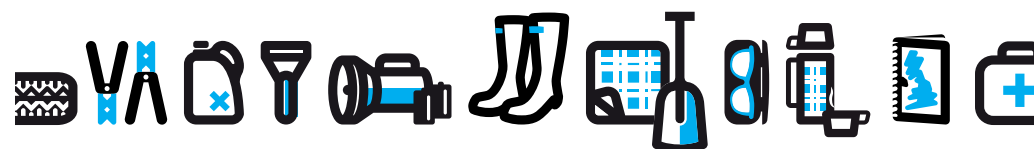
Put these in your vehicle at the start of the winter season, you never know when you might need them!

- Road atlas
- Sunglasses (the low sun and glare off snow can be dazzling).

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- Torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel

In addition, when setting out on winter journeys remember to take with you:

Food, a warm drink in a flask and any medication you or your passengers need to take regularly



Cut this out and keep it in your wallet as a handy reminder

It folds to credit card size

POWDERY

checklist before you set off

Petrol

(or diesel). Enough for your journey?

Oil

Check levels regularly.

Water

Radiator and screen-wash.

Damage

Check wipers etc for signs of wear and tear.

Electrics

Lights, indicators and controls all working properly?

Rubber

Tyres should be well inflated, legal, with good tread.

You

Are you fit to drive?
Have you slept well?
Are you taking any medication that could make it unsafe for you to drive?