

How you can help

Help reduce traffic, be Travelwise. If driving conditions are bad - do you really need to travel? Consider making your journey by rail or bus. You can obtain free timetables from Traveline **0871 2002233**. If you do need to travel in your vehicle please remember:

- Never assume a road has been salted
- Approximately 80% of roads are not routinely salted.
- Allow extra time for your journey and reduce your speed.
- When visibility is poor due to rain, fog and snow use dipped headlights - see and be seen.
- Watch out for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders - they can be difficult to see in bad conditions.
- Try your brakes after going through deep water, braking lightly will help to dry them out.
- In high winds watch out for sudden gusts and debris on the road.
- In fog, you think you are travelling slower than you really are - slow down and don't use tail lights of the vehicle in front as a guide.
- Give snow ploughs and gritters plenty of room - be patient, don't follow close behind.
- Don't park where it may block a salting route.

Please remember

- Never assume a road has been salted
- It takes time for the salt to become effective, if snow has fallen it also needs traffic movement.
- Showers or rain will wash salt off roads leaving them prone to icing.
- In very cold weather even salting will not stop ice from forming.
- Forecasts are not always accurate and it takes over 3 hours to salt the network.
- When freezing or snow follows rain there may not be enough time to treat all the network before temperatures fall to zero.

Have a safe journey

Who to contact

Want to report a problem on your road?



fallen trees
flooding
broken streetlights
potholes

MyDevon

Call Roads and Transport
0845 155 1004

BT 0845 calls cost a maximum 5p per minute. Other providers may vary

For information about the Motorway or Trunk Roads contact the **Highways Agency**
08457 50 40 30

The Environment Agency's extended Floodline now provides a 24 hour 'one stop shop' for flooding advice including sandbag availability. For highway flooding please see contacts above.

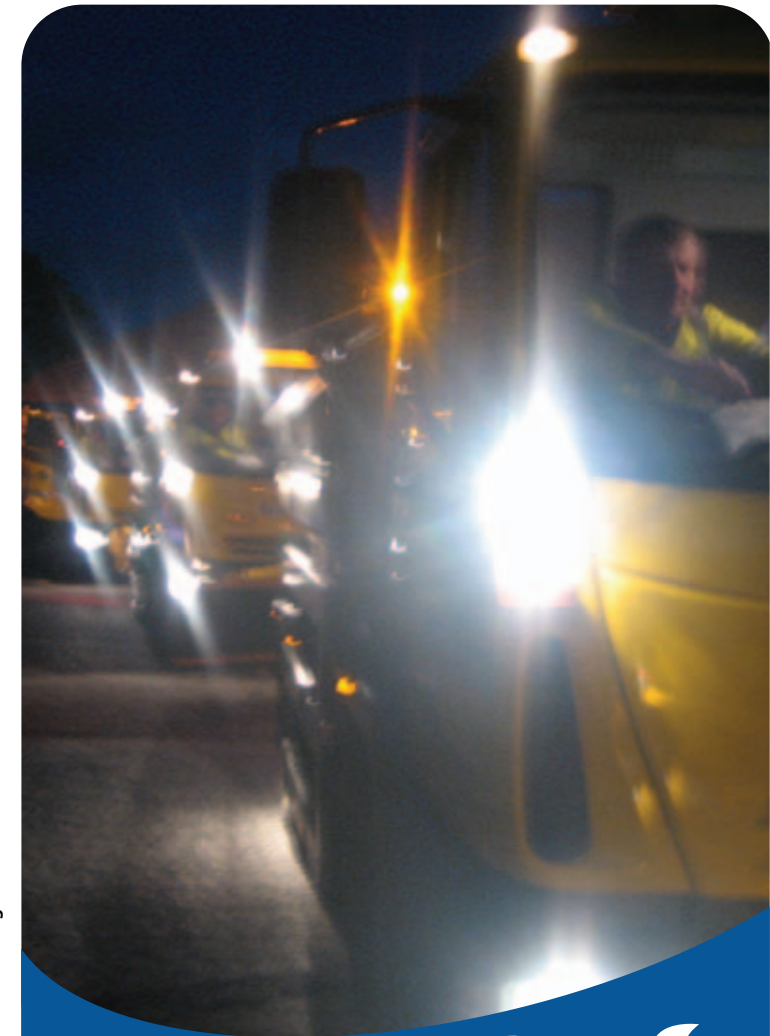
Floodline
0845 988 1188
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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Travelling in Winter

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Devon County Council is responsible for over 12,800 km (8,000 miles) of road from major A roads to narrow country lanes. This is the longest network in England.

Winter service is an important part of the Council's maintenance work and between £4 million and £5 million is spent each year on roads affected by winter weather. This involves salting major roads when there is a risk of ice, clearing snow and reacting to floods and fallen trees. We will, within the available resources, provide as safe a passage as possible for users of the highway.

The Council's contractor, SWH Ltd, has a workforce based at strategic locations to provide an effective response to any problems that may occur.

Despite our efforts, winter weather can still make roads treacherous. With over 90% of all crashes attributed to human error the real key to driving in winter is to drive with due care for the conditions.

Never assume a road has been salted

What we do

- Undertake precautionary salting on major roads when there is a risk of ice or snow.
- Monitor road conditions and direct resources to where problems are occurring.
- Clear the major routes of snow.
- Provide roadside salt bins and bags for self help.
- React to highway flooding and fallen trees.
- Try to keep delays to a minimum.



What we are unable to do

- Undertake salting or other work on the motorway or trunk roads as these are the responsibility of the Highways Agency.
- Salt all roads as this would be an enormous and costly task.
- Always keep roads free of ice and snow.

When we salt

Often you will wake up to find frost on your car but will see that the roads have not been salted. This is because the decision is based on road and not air temperatures. Salting will take place:

- When roads may be wet and road temperatures are forecast to be at or below freezing.
- When snow is forecast - but it takes time and traffic for salt to melt snow.

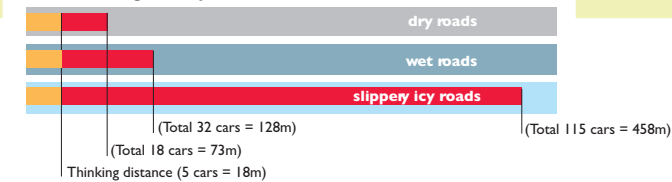
Salting is usually completed before freezing but rain may occasionally delay treatment leaving roads liable to freezing until they are salted.

Where we salt

Just over 2,700 km (1,700 miles) of roads are on the precautionary salting network shown on the map overleaf. This includes major roads and routes to larger settlements, as well as accesses to emergency services such as hospitals, fire stations etc, to make travelling as safe as possible. BUT please remember approximately 80% of roads are not routinely treated.

Stopping Distances

Minimum Stopping Distance (in car lengths) when travelling at 60mph



Skidding

Many drivers underestimate the slipperiness of the road. In winter stopping distances become much longer (see above). Remember to slow down and leave more space between you and the vehicle in front. Consider taking a winter driving skid prevention and control course at Devon Drivers' Centre, Westpoint, **01392 444773**.

Technology

The County's Highway Operations and Control Centre is manned 24 hours a day, every day of the year, to co-ordinate work on the highway network. It is fully equipped to monitor the effects of winter weather on our roads.

The technology includes a network of roadside ice detectors at strategic locations. These provide information on actual road conditions and are used to help predict when ice and snow may occur. Radar and satellite images are used to track rain and cloud cover across the county, and we have close links with our specialised weather forecasters.

This means

- Precautionary salting routes that are near freezing can be identified and treated.
- Most effort can be directed to the worst affected areas.
- An efficient, cost effective and environmentally sensitive winter service is provided which minimises salt usage.