

## Grit Bins

Grit bins are provided for use by local residents at a limited number of locations where there are particular problems with snow and ice – such as steps, steep roads and paths, etc. Please note that:

- > Grit bins will only be provided on sites with difficult conditions
- > Grit bins will only be located where they can be filled from a lorry
- > Generally, Grit bins will not be provided to service a road where it is already a primary gritting route (see over for details)
- > Grit bins cannot be placed where they obstruct pedestrians
- > Only written requests for bins will be considered. These must be supported by local residents and will be considered after a full assessment has been carried out
- > Grit bins will be left in position in the summer months unless they are causing a public nuisance
- > These bins are provided for use on the adopted network\* only and are not for use on private roads or driveways. Any abuse of this condition can lead to them being removed
- > A review of locations for grit bins is carried out each year, taking into account any additional requests from local residents

## 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 these 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!

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 road and footway routes. Resources will be used on these routes continuously to clear the snow before secondary routes are treated.

Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services on 01620 827199

## All about Winter services in East Lothian



# Get ready for winter

Gritting

Snow clearing

Winter driving tips

Contact numbers



# Winter Services

East Lothian Council is responsible for providing a winter maintenance service on adopted roads\* throughout East Lothian. Our aim is to provide an effective and efficient service, within the resources we have available, to allow pedestrians and vehicles to move safely, depending on weather conditions. In severe weather, we treat up to 600km of roads and around 300km of footways.

This leaflet sets out our plan for treating roads and footways and also includes tips for safer winter driving. We hope you find the leaflet useful but please contact us on the numbers below if you have any other questions.

## Our priorities

Where possible, we treat major roads and important bus routes before ice forms. When it snows, these important routes are treated first. We operate this service over 24 hours if necessary.

Once these main, or 'primary routes' have been completed, we treat secondary routes and finally what are classed as 'tertiary' and minor routes, such as those in housing estates, during normal working hours.

We also deal with footways on a priority basis. Given our limited resources, footways are not normally pre-gritted. In ice and snow, footways leading to schools, hospitals, health centres and shopping areas are treated first, along with those where a lot of people walk. Main routes to residential areas follow, with footways within housing areas being treated as resources allow. Grit bins are also positioned throughout East Lothian for public use.

The A1 trunk road is maintained by AMEY Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The contact numbers for AMEY Scotland are given below.

## Contact Numbers

**For:** Policy on route priorities;  
requests for new grit bins or refills;  
general comments/information on services

**Call:** During working hours  
**01620 827946**  
Outwith working hours  
**01875 612818**

**For:** A1 Trunk Road –AMEY Scotland

**Call:** AMEY Scotland  
24 hour contact number  
**0800 042 0188**

## The service you can expect

As you will appreciate, it's not possible to treat all routes at the same time. That's why the Council has a priority system, to make sure that we treat those areas in greatest need first.

The normal period of our winter service extends from the end of October through to April.

## Roads

Road Type	Treatment
<b>Priority 1 Primary Routes</b> Important principal roads, major scheduled bus routes, routes to fire stations, hospitals, ambulance depots and local danger spots on roads with high traffic levels.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing 24 hours a day on all days. Pre grit if required. Planned treatment or reacting to weather conditions.
<b>Priority 2 Secondary Routes</b> Other classified routes and connecting routes between town centres, and accesses to residential areas.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours – 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 1pm Friday. Pre grit if required.
<b>Priority 3–4 Tertiary Routes/Minor Routes</b> Crossroads and connecting roads, accesses into industrial and residential areas. Residential areas, cul-de-sacs and other unclassified roads.	Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours – 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 1pm Friday. Treatment following snow and ice.

## Footways

Footway Type	Treatment
<b>Priority 1 Primary Routes</b> Urban shopping areas and precincts. Routes to schools, health centres, hospitals, clinics etc. Main routes to residential areas.	During periods of snow and ice, footways will be gritted and cleared during normal working hours. Normally we do not pre grit footways.
<b>Priority 2 Secondary Routes</b> Other routes to residential areas and housing areas in general.	These routes will be treated once snow/ice has been cleared on Priority 1 Routes. Normally we do not pre grit footways.

\* An adopted road/footway is the responsibility of the Council. Non adopted roads are maintained by private individuals or other bodies e.g. developers of housing estates. Roads and footpaths on housing estates are not adopted by the Council until all highway works are completed to a satisfactory standard. Until the estate has been adopted, the responsibility for street lighting, street cleansing, and other highway-related maintenance including winter gritting rests with the developer or owner of the site.