

Snow Clearance

Worcestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport & Safe Environment has written a general letter to each Parish Council hoping to encourage parishioners to clear snow from their local area:

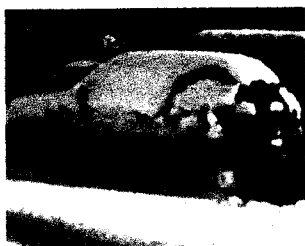
"I wish to encourage local people to be good neighbours in helping to clear snow from pavements outside their house. We know it is widely thought that anyone who does this can be sued, so residents are reluctant to take the risk, when in reality there is no risk.

Provided that people follow some simple guideline to ensure they clear the snow in a sensible manner, the proposal is to create a small fighting fund, initially £25,000. This is to give legal advice and assistance and support to anyone who acts like a good neighbour clearing the snow and in doing so may be sued by another person.

We will be giving out guidelines on clearing snow sensibly which people will have to follow to be eligible for support."

On 7th December the following websites guidelines (see below) were quoted: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868?cid=rss

Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself



There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely.

The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Prevent slips

Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

Clear the snow or ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

Use salt or sand - not water

If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery. You can prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

Take care where you move the snow

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path 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 of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact your local council. worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk