

Winter on the

Borough's roads



As winter will soon be in full swing, Councils up and down the country are preparing their fleet of vehicles to help keep vital roads safe for drivers. In Bedford Borough roads are salted when temperatures drop below zero to make sure they are as safe as possible from ice. The Council also use ploughs and farm tractors to help clear any snowfall. To find out more please visit the transport pages of www.bedford.gov.uk

When are the roads salted?

Salting is carried out when road temperatures are expected to drop below zero and when the roads are expected to be damp. Ice will not form on a dry road surface in dry air. The Council's contractors (Amey and DSD) carry out salting either after the evening or before the morning peak traffic periods and may have to work 24 hours around the clock if there is bad weather.

How does the Council know when to salt?

Amey use a computer system to collect weather and road

information at different sites across the Borough. The Met Office uses this weather information along with their other weather data to predict weather conditions and road surface temperatures. Bedfordshire Highways then make the decision on whether or not to salt and at what time of the day or night.

What roads are salted?

The salting network has been created so that roads carrying the highest amount of traffic and with the highest risk of accidents are treated. This means that just under half of the road network in the Borough is

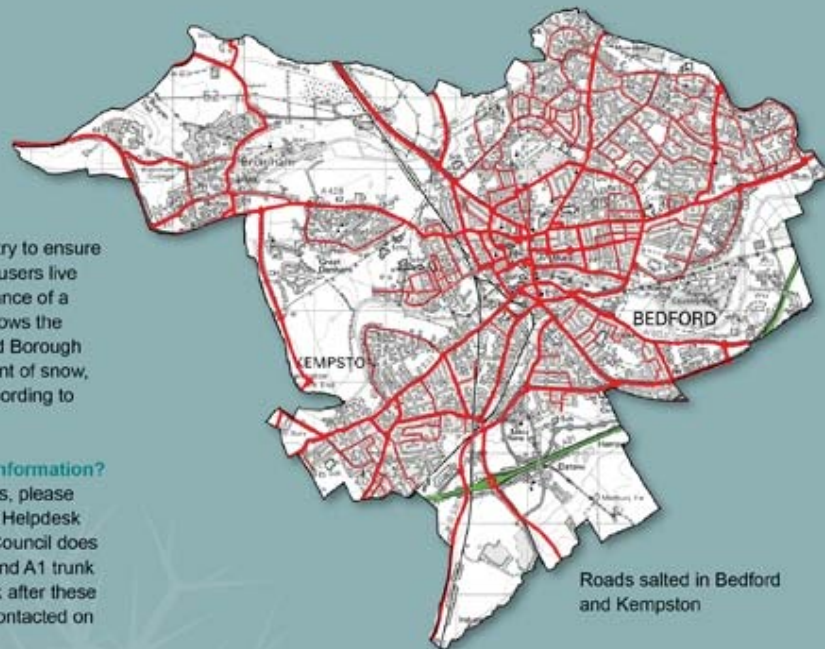
salted. The council also try to ensure that the majority of road users live within a reasonable distance of a salted road. The map shows the salting routes for Bedford Borough for this winter. In the event of snow, roads will be cleared according to their priority.

How do you get more information?

If you have any questions, please telephone our Highways Helpdesk on 01234 228661. The Council does not look after the A421 and A1 trunk roads. CarillionWSP look after these roads and they can be contacted on 01536 413700.



Roads salted across Bedford Borough



Roads salted in Bedford and Kempston

Important advice for drivers!

Check your vehicles for:

- Correct tyre tread depths and pressures. Don't forget the spare!
- Lights that are working and are kept clean.
- The correct level of antifreeze. A garage can check this for you.
- Wiper blades that are in good condition.
- A windscreen washer bottle that contains an additive to prevent freezing.
- A battery that is in good condition. Winter driving will make extra demands on your battery.

Before driving off:

- Check the weather conditions both for your outward journey and your return.
- Plan your route and leave in plenty of time. Even consider whether your journey is essential.

Remember:

- Speed kills. Do not drive too fast. Cut your speed in possible icy conditions.
- It is far safer to travel a little further on a salted road than to use untreated roads.
- Keep your distance. It takes much longer to stop in ice and snow.
- Try to anticipate the actions of other drivers.
- Avoid harsh acceleration, steering or braking.
- Keep in as high a gear as possible.
- Allow more time for your journey.
- Consider whether your journey is necessary.

And finally...

Always drive with care and never assume a road has been salted.