

Northamptonshire Highways

The winter season officially starts for Northamptonshire Highways mid October with gritting crews on standby, round-the-clock until mid-April.

43% of the county's routes are precautionary salting routes. These are A and B roads, busy commuter routes, roads that maintain access into and out of villages and roads identified as being particularly hazardous in icy conditions.

Priority is given to those roads carrying the highest volume of traffic and where the risk of accidents is greatest.

Winter Service



Gritters

Our gritters salt 1,157 miles of road, 43% of the total road network. P1 routes

We salt 255 miles of additional roads in really bad weather, an extra 13%. P2 routes

Every few years we name our gritting fleet. We currently have 20 gritters looking after our roads including Sir Grits-A-Lot, Rev Gritchard Coles and Chilly Charlie.

Salt

We use a salt covered in molasses which helps it stick to the road, not blow or be washed away and last longer.

We stock 10,000 tonnes of salt in 3 depots. Although we call it gritting there is no grit. Rock salt lowers the freezing point of water and needs traffic movement to activate it.

We provide 1513 grit bins for self-help on the public paths and roads. Not for use on private drives! Contact Street Doctor for a refill.

Grit is a mix of salt and sand and is good for footpaths and creating a less slippery surface.



Our routes

P1 routes are the precautionary network we salt every time we go out. It takes us about 4 hours to complete.

1,157 miles is like driving from London to Rome.

P2 routes are treated when there is adverse weather. This covers certain links to villages not on the P1 network and some bus routes and selected roads in industrial estates.

255 miles is nearly the distance from Northampton to Edinburgh

Motorways and trunk roads — the M1 and M45, the A14, and parts of A45, A5 and A43 in the county are gritted by Highways England.



Full gritting information at northamptonshire.gov.uk

Gritter Twitter [@nnhighways](https://twitter.com/nnhighways)

You can view weather warnings on the Met Office website. metoffice.gov.uk

We can't grit everywhere. Never assume a road is treated and please drive carefully.

