

Snow and Ice

Tamar's Responsibility

It is not practical for Tamar to clear pavements, pathways and car parks for all of our properties. We don't have enough staff or the right equipment to keep everywhere clear of snow and ice. Generally, Tamar does not clear snow and ice from communal areas. However, in some limited circumstances and where there are particular problems we may be able to help.

Salt Boxes

On some estates Tamar may provide a salt box. This is provided for residents to use in case of ice and snow. Follow the advice in this leaflet if you are thinking of clearing snow and ice or spreading salt in communal areas. If we do supply a salt box, we will make sure its full in the Autumn but in prolonged periods of snow it may run out and be difficult to replenish.

Clearing Snow and Ice Yourself

Anyone can clear snow and ice from the pavement outside their home, pavements, pathways and car parks to prevent slips and falls. Follow the advice in this leaflet to clear snow and ice safely.

Tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements, paths or car parks

Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear. Remember cars may slip and find it hard to stop: wear bright clothes and don't take any risks with traffic.



Clear the snow and 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.

You will need about 1 tablespoons of salt/grit for every square meter should be ample, although you may need more for steep slopes and steps. Remember, salt can be washed away by further snow or rain and you may need to reapply it before it freezes again.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot.

Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. 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 melt snow or 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.

If Tamar supply a salt bin you can use this salt on communal areas. However, don't use salt from a highways bin as this is reserved for the roads

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them.

Preventing slips

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

Take care where you move the snow

Think about where you are putting the cleared snow, you don't want to just shift the problem elsewhere. Make sure you don't pile snow over drains or gullies as this will stop the snow melting and draining away.

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, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

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