

# Winter advice for businesses

Untreated snow and ice can be a hazard for people visiting shops, offices and other business buildings. So to help keep your customers safe this winter, why not try out the free tips below?

## Pavement clearing

During the heavy snowfall and frosts of winter 2009/10 many businesses were confused about whether they could legally clear the pavement in front of their premises.

There is no law preventing you from clearing pavements outside your property, as long as you use common sense and don't make the situation more dangerous. For example, don't use hot water to clear snow/ice as it will make the pavement more slippery.

### **Top tips:**

- Before shovelling, make a line down the middle of the pavement to be cleared first, giving you a clear path to shovel snow from centre to side.
- Use a shovel with a wide blade – it makes the job much easier.
- Don't be tempted to use hot water, this increases the risk of black ice.
- Cleared snow mounds should not block the road or neighbouring properties.
- Be careful not to step into the road, cars will take longer to stop if it's icy.
- Wear suitable and, if possible, high-visibility clothing.
- Spread salt on the area you have cleared to stop it becoming icy. You can use table or dishwasher salt. A few tablespoons of salt for each square metre should be enough.



## Stock up!

Before any bad weather arrives, make a trip to your local hardware store and stock up on salt so you can grit pavements, car parks and property entrances before the big freeze hits.

### Top tips:

- Lay cardboard onto your path prior to any frost/snowfall – this will reduce its impact and make it easier for you to shovel.
- Don't forget, you can use table or dishwasher salt if you run out of industrial salt.

## Keep informed

Information about road closures or suspended council services, which may impact on your business, will be posted at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk) and on local radio stations. Up-to-date weather forecasts can be found at [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

Further information, including the law on clearing pavements of snow/ice is available at **[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/emergenciesweather](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/emergenciesweather)**