

## What you need in your winter kit

To stay safe on the road you should carry a winter kit in your car when the weather is bad. Get the kit ready at the start of the winter and keep it in the car. It should contain:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- Warm clothes and boots
- A torch with spare batteries or wind up torch
- A shovel
- Jump leads
- Sunglasses for low sun

Make sure that you have your mobile phone and that it's charged.

**Shetland Islands Council - Roads Service**

**Tel: 01595 744866**

(normal office hours, extended during bad snow conditions)

[www.shetland.gov.uk/adverseweather/](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/adverseweather/)



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# WINTER ROADS ADVICE



**A helpful guide with advice on simple vehicle checks, what you need in your winter kit and tips on driving through snow and ice**



**Have you checked your vehicle?**

**Is your winter kit complete?**

**Are you confident driving through ice and snow?**

The Council will salt, grit or clear snow from public roads starting at 6.00am, stopping late afternoon at 6.00pm, except in heavy snow conditions when ploughing will be extended to 9.00pm.

Main roads and bus routes will be treated first, followed by secondary and loop roads. Minor side or 'priority 3' roads are not normally treated for frost unless in severe conditions and these will be treated after priority 1 and 2 routes. Snow will be cleared from all roads as and when required with priority 1 and 2 roads first and priority 3 roads immediately on completion of the higher priority roads.

Please note that we only treat main roads on weekends and public holidays and there is no treatment on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

### Is your vehicle ready?

Winter can be a challenging time for driving. It gets dark early and the weather brings many hazards – not just ice and snow but hail, heavy rain and high winds.

It is important to see and to be seen. So check:

- Windscreen washers and wipers
- Window demisters
- All lights

It is important that your vehicle grips the road. So check:

- Tyre condition
- Tread depth
- Also consider fitting winter or 'all season' tyres for increased traction and stopping ability

It is important that your vehicle starts in the cold. If necessary, check:

- Battery condition
- Radiator anti-freeze



### Pre-journey checks:

**FUEL** – have you got enough?

**OIL** – check levels frequently, at least once a month

**WATER** – check radiator and screen wash

**ELECTRICS** – always check lights, indicators and controls are working

### Driving in wintry weather

In adverse weather conditions please do not travel unless absolutely necessary. If you must travel then:

- Check the latest weather situation, and see if you could leave earlier, later or change your plans
- Clear all windows and lights so you can see and be seen, clear snow off the roof and bonnet
- Use dipped headlights in poor visibility
- Accelerate and brake gently to avoid skidding, a higher gear helps when driving on a slippery surface
- Leave extra space between you and other vehicles
- Don't overtake gritters unless it is safe to do so, as there may be untreated ice or snow on the road ahead