

Grit Bin Policy



Roads and Infrastructure
Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

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Approval

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Highland Council has a duty under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to take reasonable steps to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrian and vehicles over public roads. Grit bins and heaps are used as an additional resource to gritting at specific locations, to allow the public access to use the material on publicly adopted roads where vehicles may become immovable due to the wintry conditions or to assist pedestrian movements.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This Policy will apply to:
- All adopted and prospectively adoptable roads for which The Highland Council is the local Roads Authority.
 - Roads not on the adopted list but are managed/ maintained by The Highland Council under other Services such as Property, Housing, Planning and Education.
 - Private areas or car parks and any other public or private property where there is a service level agreement in place.

3.0 Policy

- 3.1 The Council provides grit bins and grit heaps in both urban and rural areas to offer the public a self-help option to overcome the localised effect of severe winter weather on public footways and carriageways.
- 3.2 The grit provided in bins or heaps is not for use on private paths and driveways. It is illegal to do so and is considered theft.
- 3.3 Grit bins/ heaps are located at sites identified as meeting the following criteria:
- On low priority gritting routes in urban areas, where the gradient is above 5% (not a relatively level road), grit bins will be considered. They will be placed at an interval determined by the Area office but will generally be at a maximum of approximately 200m.
 - In rural areas grit bins/ heaps may be considered on low priority gritting routes where the gradient (above 5%) and local conditions mean additional resources may be required during spells of extreme winter weather. Intervals will be at a distance determined by the Roads Area Team according to the gradient of the section of road.
 - Grit bins/ heaps will not normally be considered on high priority gritting routes as the risk should be mitigated by planned treatment.
 - Grit bins will be located where they can be filled from a vehicle, will be left in place during the summer and replenished at the start of the winter period.

- The Council will not provide grit bins/ heaps in private areas or car parks, or on any other public or private property such as schools, parks, hospitals, care homes etc unless a service agreement is in place.
- 3.4 The bins are normally filled before the winter period. They are replenished regularly over defined routes as well as on an ad-hoc basis as required, subject to availability of resources.
- 3.5 The placement of grit bins will be reviewed on an ad-hoc basis and they may be removed if Area Roads Teams determine that they have not been regularly used over the winter period or are no longer required.
- 3.6 The Council does not sell grit or salt to the public. Private occupiers should purchase salt from DIY stores, builders' merchants or other retailers.