

Winter Maintenance Policy

Gritting of Footways

Connect HA will only provide and spread grit on land managed by Connect. Connect will not provide or spread grit on roads, pavements or footpaths which are adopted and/or maintained by the local authority.

Connect HA will ONLY grit footpaths which allow access around schemes, to and from the front communal gate or communal entrance door. Connect will not normally grit roadways or parking areas.

Connect will NOT spread grit on paths which provide access to a single dwelling; this is the tenant's responsibility, in the same way that maintenance of private gardens is the tenant's responsibility.

Footpaths will only receive grit when:

- The 5 day forecast temperature, as published on the BBC Weather website, would not rise above zero degrees Celsius for three days continuously; OR
- Ice is forecast to form on footways and the condition continues after midday on any individual day, as published on the BBC Weather website

Footpaths shall not receive **precautionary** gritting for frost, under normal winter weather conditions.

The treatment of footpaths should be started as soon as practicable, given the ability of contractors to be able to get to site. Contractors will attend as often as necessary (so far as resources and weather allows) during the period of cold weather. Generally it is anticipated that contractors will be able to visit prioritised schemes every three working days (Monday-Friday, excluding bank holidays), providing weather conditions allow and grit stocks and personnel are available. In **very** exceptional circumstances contractors may work Saturday mornings.

Connect HA will give **greater priority** to schemes for contractor gritting according to the following factors:

- the vulnerability and mobility of tenants,
- whether daily access is required by Connect staff,
- the site location with taking into consideration altitude and
- general configuration of the scheme with regard to steep gradients and shaded areas and normal winter temperatures.

A list of the priority schemes will be published and reviewed from time to time.

If access by car is directly to the tenant's front gate, the surrounding footpath will NOT be gritted.

The contractor shall spread the grit on selected prioritised schemes; on other selected schemes Connect HA will supply grit ONLY. (This information is enclosed in the priority list) Connect HA will:

- Make available information in order to manage residents, staff and visitor expectations
- Draw up a priority list of footpaths to be gritted where funding and resources allow.
- Ensure reasonable stocks of grit are created in the warmer months, ready for deployment in adverse weather conditions.
- Consult tenants groups to raise awareness of the issues and practicalities and understanding of the costs to compare the advantages and disadvantages of providing the grit bins.

In times of severe and prolonged bad weather Connect WILL also provide self-help bags at the main offices.

Connect HA will raise awareness of the Winter Maintenance Policy by:

- Inserting an article in Get Connected
- Information placed on the website.
- staff training, so that staff may inform tenants

A robust gritting policy aims to provide an environment which allows tenants, staff and visitors to travel reasonably freely and safely around the schemes in times of severe weather. Connect cannot guarantee that every footpath will be ice-free at all times, even in priority schemes. It is the responsibility of all residents, their visitors and staff to take appropriate care in poor weather conditions.

Grit Bin Policy

- Bins will be provided on schemes where a high proportion of residents are affected, or are likely to be affected, by impaired mobility and vulnerability
- Bins will also provided on sites with difficult conditions i.e. steep gradients
- Bins will only be located where they can be easily filled, accessible for users, and close to the source of the hazards.
- Bins will only be replenished during, and immediately after, periods of adverse weather or upon request from the tenants as resources allow. It is the intention of Connect to replenish bins at a minimum of every two weeks during severe conditions
- No provision shall be made in private areas or car parks; the grit supplied by Connect HA is intended for footpaths only.
- The position of any proposed bin should not obstruct passage of pedestrians.
- The location/type of grit bins will also take into consideration the prevention of grit being taken by people who are not residents of the scheme in question.
- Grit bins will be left in situ during the summer months.
- All requests for Grit Bins will be recorded on QL, referred to the Technical Contracts Manager, assessed and then appropriately responded to in line with Policy
- Requests will considered in the context of available resources to both provide and maintain **the installation, and with the agreement of tenants on the scheme.**