

WINTER WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

Each year slipping and falling injuries occur as a result of slippery underfoot conditions caused by ice or snow.

Most of these are readily preventable by taking a few simple precautions.

Combined with dark mornings and evenings, ice and snow underfoot can result in very difficult conditions for getting to or from your place of work.

We know that during the winter months we can expect one or more periods of cold and icy weather. The time to act to minimise the likelihood of injury is **now**. Don't wait until ice and snow arrive before thinking about the measures to take.



A supply of rocksalt or grit should be available, ideally stored in a readily accessible bin for ease of distribution.

Where more extensive surfaced areas need to be treated, a mechanical spreader may be more appropriate.

Ensure that one or more employees (or contractors) are assigned to the task of spreading salt or grit.

The **priority** areas for applying de-icing materials should be:

- all paths and other pedestrians areas (including car parks, outside offices, weighbridges, and places where people need to go to get to their workplace) should be gritted/salted to keep them free of ice and frozen water.

Now that mornings and evenings are dark, all lights must be checked to establish:

- that they are working
- that they actually illuminate areas where people work or pass
- that no dark areas exist where people need to pass through.

It is particularly important that adequate artificial lighting is provided for people to travel to their working areas safely during hours of darkness.

If you have any concerns then you should initially raise these with your Supervisor or Manager.

QUESTIONS – (there may be more than one correct answer)

		A	B	C
1	Are most slips and falls readily preventable?	No	Yes	Depends where you work
2	Do you know where your rocksalt is stored on site?	Yes	No	Not all locations
3	You have noticed that the ground is frozen at the top of a flight of stairs. What should you do?	Avoid the area to prevent injuring yourself	Report it immediately	Make the area safe, then report it.
4	Are you allowed to spread rocksalt yourself?	No – somebody has been given this task	Yes - if it is readily available and will prevent an injury	No – I will be disciplined
5	If you have any concerns, whom do you raise them with?	Workmate	Your Manager	Your Supervisor

