

**Re: Winter Maintenance of Roads in South Tipperary  
Policy/Procedure in relation to salt spreading**

## **Winter maintenance**

### **Your safety is our top priority**

It does not have to feel particularly cold for the roads to freeze. In winter, road surface temperatures can be as much as 4 degrees colder than the air temperature.

Extra caution is needed when driving in winter as conditions can vary enormously within a few miles and change very rapidly.

### **Winter weather conditions**

As well as snow, we also have to deal with:

- **Black Ice:** This occurs rain falls on the road, or where water is standing on the road, when the surface temperature is below zero. The ice is clear but looks black against the road surface. This makes it exceedingly difficult to see from a vehicle, and is very dangerous.
- **Hoar Frost:** This occurs when the moisture in the air freezes and the white ice crystals appear on grass and trees and occasionally form on the roads. Hoar frost can make the surface very slippery.
- **Freezing Rain:** This is rain which changes to ice as soon as it hits the freezing road surface. Fortunately this condition is very rare in Ireland.

## **POLICY**

The Winter Maintenance period lasts from mid October to mid April each year. Our priority is to keep major routes treated and passable during adverse weather conditions. These are generally all Motorways, National Primary and National Secondary roads, Heavily trafficked Regional roads and other roads of local importance, such as bus routes and roads to large schools and hospitals. We cannot afford, nor would it be environmentally acceptable, to salt every single road in the county.

Each route is carefully planned to ensure that a 4 hour response time can be achieved from leaving the depot to completing the route.

We currently operate 6 precautionary salting routes within the county. (see attached appendix)



The total length of road network in South Tipperary is

Motorway (M8)	49km
National Primary (N24)	70km
National Secondary (N74 & N76)	40km
Regional Roads	485km
Local Roads	2,349km
Total	2,993km

We cannot afford, nor would it be environmentally acceptable, to salt every single road in South Tipperary during severely cold weather and some form of prioritisation is therefore required.

Winter Maintenance of roads in South Tipperary is prioritised on the following basis:-

- Priority 1. Category of road (motorway, & national roads)
- Priority 2. Heavily Trafficked Regional Roads
- Priority 3. Large urban centres

**Priority 1. National Routes**

- Motorway M8
- National Primary N24
- National Secondary N74, N76

**Priority 2. Regional Roads**

Prioritised as follows based on traffic volumes

R505	Cashel to Dundrum
R639	Cashel to New Inn (Ambulance Route)
R640	Cahir to Knockagh
R660	Cashel to Holycross Bridge
R661	Tipperary to Dundrum to Rathkennan
R665	Clonmel to Ballyporeen to County Bounds
R670	Ardfinnan to Cahir to Kedrah
R687	New Inn to Rathkeenan (Ambulance Route)
R688	Clonmel to Cashel
R689	Clonmel to Killenaule
R696	Carrick-on-Suir to Glenbower
R706	Carrick-on-Suir to Cregg Bridge

### **Priority 3. Towns/Urban Areas**

The national and regional roads within the towns of :-

- Clonmel
- Cahir
- Carrick on Suir
- Cashel
- Tipperary
- Fethard

It should be noted within these towns, approaches to schools, bus and ambulance routes are given priority also.

It is common for a variance in road temperatures to occur across the county, which may result in some or all of the routes being pretreated on any particular night.

### **Section 85 Agreements**

Agreement has been reached with adjoining Local Authorities to share the workload as follows:-

#### **WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a. South Tipperary County Council to treat 5.4Km of the R665 (Wood Road) in Waterford County Council area, from its junction with the R668 at the County bounds at convent road roundabout to the county bounds at Knocklofty Bridge
- b. Waterford County Council to Treat 2.7 Km of the R680 (Tramore road) in Carrick-on Suir from Dillon Bridge to the County Bounds at Tinhalla, and treat 1.9 Km of the R676 ( Dungarvan Road, Carrick on Suir) from Dillon Bridge to the County Bounds to Crehanagh.

#### **LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a. Limerick County Council to treat 6.0 Km of the N24 from County Bounds at Monard to the Dunnes Stores Roundabout at Bohercrowe, Tipperary, and 0.62 KM of the L-81061 from N24 to Limerick Jct Railway Station
- b. South Tipperary County Council to treat 3.017Km of the M8 (Motorway) in Limerick County Council area, from the county bounds at Brackbawn bridge to the Cork County bounds at Kilbehenney.

#### **CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a. South Tipperary County Council to treat 1.856Km of the M8(Motorway) in Cork County Council area, from Cork County bounds at Kilbehenney to the end of the on ramp southbound at the Carrigane interchange and 1.0km of ramps on the northside of the Carrigane interchange.

#### **NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a. South Tipperary County Council to treat 10.89 Km of the M8(Motorway) in North Tipperary County Council area, from the county bounds at Ashill to the end of the on ramp northbound at the Twomileborris interchange and 1.0km of ramps on the southside of the Horse & Jockey interchange.

- b. North Tipperary County Council to treat 3.102 Km of the M8(Motorway) in South Tipperary County Council area, from the Black River at Longfordpass to the Kilkenny County bounds at Fennor

(Note: North Tipperary are treating an equivalent amount of M8 in Kilkenny county council area and Kilkenny County Council are treating a section of the N76 for South Tipperary)

## **KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a. Kilkenny County Council to treat 2.671Km of the N76 from Ahanure bridge to Poulacapple and 7.0KM of the N76 from Ninemilehouse to its junction R696 at South Lodge in South Tipperary County Council area.

In the event of dangerous road conditions i.e. black ice, white frost, snow, flooding, muck or any other hazardous road condition, the responsibility is on the driver to drive at an appropriate speed with due care in accordance with prevailing conditions on the road.

## **Snow clearance**

Keeping roads safe and passable during snowfalls requires constant monitoring and resource deployment in response to changing conditions.

Our objective is to keep as much of the network as possible safe and open. When conditions get so bad that not all of the network can be kept open (fortunately this is rare in South Tipperary), resources are focussed according to road priority.

Under severe conditions decisions are based on the following priorities:

- National roads , hospitals, ambulance and other emergency service areas;
- Regional roads;
- Access to water supply plants
- other roads according to our Area Roads offices

## **Road closures**

It is our policy to work with the Gardai in closing roads if:

- roads become impassable;
- road conditions become hazardous.

## **Footpaths and cycle paths**

Footpaths around schools, hospitals, pedestrian crossings, bus stops, railway stations and cyclepaths are cleared at the discretion of our area roads offices

## **Winter driving advice**

Before setting out on a wintry weather's day you should:

- Consider whether your journey is absolutely essential.

Check list before driving in bad weather conditions.

### **Check**

- local and national radio for travel information and weather forecasts allowing extra time for your journey if necessary
- the salting routes map (see attached APPENDIX, or link below to Winter Salting of Roads in SOUTH TIPPERARY) to avoid travelling on untreated roads
- all lights are clean and working properly
- All WINDOWS and mirrors are clear from frost and snow and are clean

### **In extreme conditions ask yourself**

- Is your journey essential?
- Have you checked the weather forecast and road conditions and carefully considered the advice given?
- Have you a full fuel tank?
- Does anybody know where you are going and when you hope to arrive?
- Would taking warm clothing, hot drinks, food, wellingtons, a torch with spare batteries, a high visibility vest and a shovel be a wise precaution?

### **Check You**

- are travelling with care on both treated and untreated roads and reduce speed accordingly
- take particular care when leaving or joining untreated roads at junctions
- are you using dipped headlights in poor visibility and snow
- are driving in the highest gear possible and avoid harsh breaking and acceleration
- are maintaining a safe stopping distance behind other vehicles bearing in mind the prevailing conditions
- are keeping a careful watch on other road users and especially cyclists and children
- are not obstructing winter maintenance vehicles as they treat the roads

### **If you get into trouble**

- stay with your vehicle if possible until help arrives
- if you do have to leave your vehicle make yourself visible to other road users
- if you are forced to abandon your vehicle give the local police the details
- If it is, check the local and national weather forecasts.
- If driving, listen to your local or national radio stations for travel news.
- Keep an emergency pack in your boot - you may need it if you get into trouble.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Why roads may still be icy:**

- Despite the high level of service provided, no guarantee can be given that roads will always be completely clear of ice or snow.
- On average, forecasts are 90% accurate and in most winters this means that there are days when a road frost is not forecast, but can actually occur.
- It takes time for the salt to become effective after roads are salted.
- Rain can wash salt off roads leaving them prone to re-icing.
- In severe cold weather below -8°C even salt will not prevent roads from icing up.
- If a road frost follows rain salting will normally start after the rain has stopped to avoid salt being washed away. Temperatures may fall by as much as 5°C per hour and the wet roads may well freeze before the salt spreader has been able to salt them.
- "Dawn Frost" - This occurs on dry roads and involves the development of early morning dew which falls on cold road surfaces and freezes on impact. It is impossible to forecast with any accuracy where and when it will occur.
- When rain turns to snow, early salting cannot take place as it would be washed away.
- Treated roads can still therefore have icy patches and drivers should remain vigilant and aware of the need to drive carefully at all times especially when road frosts follow rain.

### **Where is the salt stored?**

Salt is delivered to the 2 salt-depots at the start of the season and stored either in salt barns or in the open. The main purpose of the barn is to keep the salt dry and to prevent the salt from being blown or washed away by wind or rain. Each barn has a capacity of 450 Tonnes which is sufficient to pretreat our designated routes 10 occasions

### **Why is the salt used on the roads brown in colour?**

This is the natural colour of the rock salt as mined due to dirt and impurities which lies in bands throughout the salt beds, deposited millions of years ago.

Marine salt is white and is occasionally used if supplies of rock salt are not available

### **Is there a more environmentally friendly alternative to salt?**

Yes there is but unfortunately they are extremely expensive to use.

Why do footpaths not get salted ?

To treat all footpaths by hand or machine would prove to be too costly, uneconomical and is resource-intensive.

### **Should people clear ice and snow from driveways and footpaths themselves?**

We would be happy if you would show community spirit and help where you can. When clearing ice take care not to make things worse, or make it appear that the footpath is completely free of risk. You will need a shovel and some salt, sand or grit, but don't try using water or other liquids. It's easier to clear snow when it is fresh.

It can be swept, shovelled or raked, ideally onto grass areas or along the kerb.

## APPENDIX PRE-SALTING ROUTES

### Pre-Salting

### Unit 1 – M8 South

- N24** Cahir Salt Barn to Tipperary Road Roundabout, on the Cahir Bye-Pass, to Cloughabreeda
- M8** On Ramps at Cloughabreeda Southbound
- M8** Cloughabreeda to Carrigane (Carriageway from end of onramp at cloughabreeda to end of onramp south of Carrigane/this includes 3.017 Km Limerick & 0856Km Cork)
- M8** Carrigane to Cloughabreeda (Carriageway from Start of offramp south of Carrigane to start of offramp south of Cloughabreeda/this includes 3.017 Km Limerick & 0856Km Cork)
- M8** Off Ramps overbridge at Cloughabreeda Northbound
- M8** Off Ramps and On Ramps at Tincurry Southbound
- M8** Off Ramps Southbound , Overbridge and onramp Northbound at Carrigane
- M8** On Ramps northbound and Underbridge at Tincurry
- R665** County Bounds @ Knockcapple via Fingerpost to Clogheen
- R665** Clogheen to Junction with R670 @ Ardfinnan
- L3517** Building Hill Ardfinnan
- R640** R640 the Square Cahir to Knockagh Roundabout
- N24** N24 Knockagh Roundabout to Cloughabreeda (North)
- R668** R668 Cahir Bridge via fire station and link Road to R903 at Lissava
- R903** Cahir Bridge R639 at Lissava

### Pre-Salting

### Unit 2 – M8 North

- M8** On Ramps Northbound @ Tincurry
- M8** Cloughabreeda to Gortmakellis Carriageway
- M8** Gortmakellis to Horse and Jockey Carriageway
- M8** Horse and Jockey to TwomileBorris  
(to end of onramp Northbound at Twomileborris)  
TwomileBorris to Cloughabreeda  
( Start of offramp southbound at Twomileborris to end of onramp southbound at Cloughabreeda Carriageway)
- On Ramps Northbound @ Cloughabreeda
- Offramp & On Ramps Northbound @ Cashel
- 3rd lane Northbound Cashel to Clonmel Road
- Offramp & On Ramps Northbound @ Clonmel Road Cashel
- Offramp, overbridge & On Ramps Northbound @ Gortmakellis
- Offramp north, overbridge & On Ramps South @ Horse & Jockey
- M8** Off Ramps and On Ramps at Gortmakellis Southbound
- Off Ramps and On Ramps at Clonmel Road Southbound
- 3rd lane Southbound Clonmel Road to Cashel Interchange
- M8** Off Ramps and On Ramps at Cashel Southbound
- M8** Off Ramps at Cloughabreeda South Bound
- N24** N24 Cloughabreeda to Knockagh Roundabout ( South)
- R640** The Square Cahir to Cahir Salt Barn

## **Pre-Salting            Unit 3 – N24 & N 74 Tipperary**

- N24**      N24 Tipp Rd R'bout Cahir, via Bansha, and Tipperary to Dunnes Stores Roundabout on Limerick Road
- L81061** L-81061 from N24 to Limerick Jct Railway Station
- R497**      R497 Murgasty to Main Street, Tipperary
- R664**      R664 Main St. via Station Road to Golf Club at Rathanny
- R906**      R906 from Station Road to Bansha Road
- R661**      From the Pike X on N24 via Carronreddy Roundabout Tipperary to Junction R505 @ Dundrum
- N74**      N74 From Golden via Thomastown to Main Street Tipperary
- R661**      Carronreddy Roundabout to R497 at Monastery School
- R515**      From N24 at Tipperary via Shronnell to Lattin
- R662**      From Ballinilard to O'Brien Street Tipperary

## **Pre-Salting            Unit 4 – N74 & Cashel**

- R639**      R639 New Inn to Cork Rd interchange, Cashel
- R639**      R639 From Cork Rd via Cashel to Gortmakellis
- R661**      R661 From Ladyswell St. Cashel to Co. Bounds at Holycross Bridge
- R661**      Rathcannon to Junction R505 @ Dundrum
- R505**      Dundrum To Knockavilla to Main Street Cashel
- R932**      From Main St, Cashel to the N74 at Hoare Abbey
- N74**      From Tipp Road Roundabout to Cashel Road Roundabout  
Boherclough via the green to R692 @ Friar Street
- L5416** L-5416 From the N-S-O at the Green Cashel to Cashel NS
- R691**      Friar Street to Dualla Road speed limits
- R692**      R692 Friar street to Main Street
- R505**      The Circular Road Cashel
- N74**      From Hoare Abbey Junction to L1301 @ Golden
- L4305** L4305 From N74 @ Golden to speed limits

## **Pre-Salting            Unit 5 – N24 & N76 Carrick-on-Suir**

- 5 N24**      Knockagh to Rathkeevan
- 5 R687**      Rathkeevan X to New Inn
- 5 N24**      Rathkeevan to Kilheffernan
- 5 N24**      Kilheffernan roundabout to 3 Bridges C-on-Suir
- 5 R706**      New Street to Cregg Bridge
- 5 R676**      R676 New St, Dillon Bridge
- 5 R680**      R680 Dillon Bridge to Coolnamuck Road C-O-S
- 5 R885**      R885 Main St & Greystone St C-O-S
- 5 R696**      O Mahoney Ave to Glenbower
- 5 N 76**      Glenbower to Kilheffernan
- 5 R689**      **R689** Fethard Road R'bout Via Lisronagh to Fethard
- 5 R689**      Fethard to Killenaule

## Pre-Salting

## Unit 6 – Clonmel

- 6 **R692** Friar Street to Junction with R688 at M8
- 6 **R688** Friar Street Cashel to Clonmel Inner Relief Road, via Clerihan to Clonmel
- 6 **R688** **R688** Cashel Road, from the Inner Relief Road to Queen St
- 6 **R707** **R707** Cahir Road Roundabout via Western Road, Queen St, Dillon St, Davis Road to Moangarriff Roundabout.
- 6 **R688** Heywood Road, from Western Road to the Inner Relief Road
- 6 **R689** Fethard Road, from the inner relief Rd to Gladstone Street
- 6 **R671** From R707 at the Mall via Gas House Bridge to Loretto School
- 6 **R665** **R665** Convent road, from Dungarvan Rd R'bout to Irishtown
- 6 **R884** **R884** Jacksons X. via Irishtown, O'Connell St , Emmett St. Parnell St, Anglesea St. And the Quays to Irishtown
- 6 **R689** Railway Station and Thomas St. to the Crescent
- 6 **R671** Loretto Roundabout via Old Bridge to junction with R665 at Convent Road  
*Clonmel Borough*
- 6 **R665** From convent road Roundabout via the wood road to Knocklofty to Junction R670 at Ardfinnan  
(Including 5.406 KM for Waterford Co Co )
- 6 **L3505** Goatenbridge Road, Ardfinnan
- 6 **R670** Ardfinnan to The Square Cahir
- 6 **R670** The Square Cahir to N24 @ Kedrah



