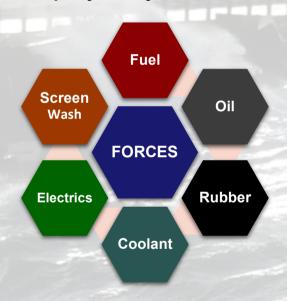
Winter Driving In Orkney





- Check your licence is valid and your vehicle has a current MOT, service and insurance.
- Pay attention to local and national weather forecasts and in particular, any weather warnings.
- Be aware that the Churchill Barriers may be closed during periods of high winds and/or tides. You can check for the latest conditions on various social media platforms, such as https://twitter.com/OIC Roads, OIC Telegram (available on personal phones only) at the Orkney Islands Council facebook page.
- Consider weather and tidal conditions before you embark on a journey.
- Look out for **ice** black ice is particularly dangerous, as it is not visible and can persist, or reoccur, even after the road surface has been treated.
- Dawn frosts also catch drivers unaware. At first light a clear sky will allow heat to radiate quickly from the road surface causing icy patches to form on wet or damp roads
- Allow **extra time** for travel and for your car to be de-iced, if necessary.
- Don't use a mobile phone while driving, including hands-free kit.
- Don't drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

For pre-journey checks the RAC uses the following handy acronym:



Fuel – Make sure you have enough fuel for your journey, bearing in mind fuel consumption may be increased in adverse conditions.

Oil – Make sure your oil levels are between the minimum and maximum.

Rubber – Check tyres have enough tread and pressures are correct. Check wiper blades.

Coolant – Check your car's levels are sufficient and top up if required.

Electrics – Check the battery and lights are working.

Screen Wash – Check levels and top up with a quality screen wash additive.

Make sure you have a winter pack in your vehicle:



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Our Winter Service resource consists of 21 gritters and 4 tow behind units. Last winter we used 5,500 tonnes of

salt on treating our

roads, footways, and

filling salt bins.

We prioritise our gritting response based on the usage and volume of traffic of each road as well as the layout of the road itself. These priorities are categorised into 1's, 2's and 3's.

Treatment starts at 6am, with no new routes started after 6pm. This is based on the resources available, and the level of traffic needed to effectively activate the salt.

Orkney Islands Council's Winter Service

Morning targets for completion of these routes are 08:00 for Priority 1's and 10:00 for Priority 2's. Our evening targets are 16:00 for Priority 1's and 18:00 for Priority 2's. Priority 3's are not routinely treated unless snow conditions are preventing access.

For more information visit:
Winter Service Plan (orkney.gov.uk)

Guide to Winter Roads in Orkney

Before setting off

DEMIST windscreen - use aircon or open windows

CLEAR all snow from the windows

Clear snow from the ROOF of the car so it doesn't slide down your windscreen

Don't leave WIPERS on auto when stopped, to prevent damaged blades

During the journey

Apply brakes GENTLY

Leave plenty of ROOM between cars

OBSERVE speed limits and drive to conditions

AVOID overtaking

Unavoidable Journeys

Wear APPROPRIATE clothing

CONSIDER active travel instead of driving, i.e. walking or cycling

Heavy goods vehicles should have REVERSING areas planned out and clearly marked

If driving a council vehicle, a banksman MUST be used where mandated

Accidents and Support

- STOP the vehicle in a safe place and switch on the hazard lights. Don't leave the engine running for warmth, as there is a danger of carbon monoxide entering your vehicle.
- CALL the appropriate emergency services, if required, by dialling 999.
- If caught in a SNOWDRIFT, don't leave the vehicle unless you are in sight of a suitable destination – let help come to you.
- If you get stuck, straighten the STEERING, and clear the snow from the wheels.
- If you must abandon your vehicle, try to leave it out of the path of snowploughs and advise the POLICE.