



Preparing for a cold snap!

It's important that businesses plan ahead and are prepared before temperatures plunge!

Even if not a lot of snow is expected, widespread frost and icy stretches can cause havoc with cars and pedestrians.

	<p>BCP Business Continuity Plan Draw up business continuity plans to minimise the impact of snow and ice on your business.</p> <p>Plans could include stocking up on the necessary workplace PPE safety items, including de-icing salt, and ensuring any spreading equipment is checked and in full working order.</p>
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Snow due? Best practice when salt spreading:

Spread uniformly: Check for any missed patches and avoid build-up in areas such as kerbs as this leads to salt wastage, which is poor practice both environmentally and economically.

Pre-salt: Ice generally forms in the evening when the sun sets and the temperature drops. Listen to the forecast, pre-empt problem and put out salt before ice forms. This will use far less salt than after snow.

Application rates:

For pre-salting, use half a cup (20g) per square metre. Full salting usually requires one cup (40g) per m². If it rains after pre-salting and then freezes, you will have to salt again.

Salting large areas regularly – i.e. paths, pavements, car parks and playgrounds - can be a time-consuming and labour-intensive job and takes its toll on the body, making it harder to breathe. Using salt spreaders is a much safer method for staff.

Suggested de-icing salt spread rates (per square metre)

Frost 0°C to -5°C 10 to 20g per m² | Snow 0°C to -5°C 25 to 40g per m²
 Frost below -5°C 10 to 20g per m² | Snow below -5°C 40 to 50g per m²

Floods:

The impact of flooding on a business can be devastating, not just because of the initial damage on the property and its contents but the affect it can have on safety and hygiene standards.

It was estimated that the winter flooding of 2015/2016 cost the UK £1.9 billion with businesses worst hit at around £616 million that winter alone.

It is best to take measures early to prevent this by creating a flood action plan, which includes clear instruction for vulnerable employees, a pack of useful documents and a kit of essential items if a flood should occur.

By ensuring a plan is put in place early, businesses can ensure they have sufficient on-site protection, such as sand bags or flood barriers, which according to the Environment Agency, could save businesses up to 90% of the cost of flood-damaged equipment.

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