



Winter Grit Bin Policy

2025–26

**Sunderland
City Council**

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Introduction

This policy sets out the required criteria that would be used to determine the acceptance of a grit bin in a requested location.

Grit bins in the right locations can be used effectively by residents in assisting with the clearance of snow and ice from footpaths or other public spaces near to their homes.

The council will support the placement of grit bins when they meet the required criteria. The grit bin once accepted that it meets the required criteria will be supplied and serviced by the council as and when required with the supply of grit during the periods of winter weather. This policy will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the council's Winter Service Operational Plan.

Assessment process and criteria

The council's Environmental Services Officers will undertake a review annually of all existing grit bins to determine their condition. If the grit bin is in good condition it will remain in place and used as normal through the winter period.

If any grit bin is found to be damaged or vandalised, they will be removed. The grit bin will not be automatically replaced and will be subject to the assessment criteria process as for any new grit bin request.

Once a request for a new grit bin is received the council will undertake an assessment of the requested Grit Bin location against the assessment criteria.

Only when the required criteria are met will a grit bin be provided.

The grit bin assessment criteria will cover 11 areas of assessment and the requested location will be assessed against these criteria.

For any grit bin to be approved and accepted at least one of the three top criteria need to be met and the remaining eight must all be met. The assessment threshold for acceptance and approval is that at least nine of the 11 criteria areas must be met.

All assessments will be undertaken by a designated manager within the Environmental Services Team and will be undertaken within 14 days from the grit bin provision request.

All requests for grit bins should be made via the normal service requests routes within the council.

Assessment criteria

	Criteria (Nine from 11 MUST be met)	Weighting	Yes	No
1	The gradient is greater than one in ten	At least one of these criteria must be met		
2	Located on a junction with a known history of accidents			
3	Area containing a number of disabled or elderly residents			
4	Must be for use on the public highway (road and footway)	Criteria to be met		
5	Not on a route already gritted by the council	Criteria to be met		
6	The location is not within 200m of another grit bin location	Criteria to be met		
7	The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is required	Criteria to be met		
8	The location should not obstruct sight lines	Criteria to be met		
9	The location is within a populated urban area	Criteria to be met		
10	The location is within the boundary of the public road	Criteria to be met		
11	Located where they can be easily be filled from a lorry or maintenance vehicle	Criteria to be met		

Additional considerations

Some additional factors will also be taken into account into the provision and management of grit bins, these include:

- Before any installation is finally approved agreement will need to be given by the council, as the Highway Authority, for the siting of the bin.
- There must be a consensus amongst residents in the nearby vicinity of the proposed location of the grit bin who agree to its placement.
- The council will not provide grit bins in private areas or car parks for internal use by any public or private business.
- The locations of grit bins will be recorded and made available on the council's website.
- Grit bins will generally be left in situ during the summer months.
- Repeated vandalism to a grit bin in a particular location may lead to it being removed and not automatically replaced.
- The grit in the bin is purely for use on the public highway. If the grit is repeatedly used on private land/footpaths/driveways consideration will be given to remove the bin or prosecute the offenders.

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