

Grit Bin Policy

May 2026 reviewed

Next review May 2027

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the responsibilities and criteria for the provision, replacement, and maintenance of grit bins by Warminster Town Council (WTC). This policy ensures that residents understand the roles of different authorities in managing winter safety measures and establishes clear guidelines for requests relating to grit bins.

2. Scope and Responsibilities

2.1 Highways Responsibility:

Warminster Town Council is not the responsible authority for highways and does not hold any statutory responsibility for them. The management, maintenance, and safety of highways fall under the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, the designated highways authority.

2.2 Use of grit bins:

Grit bins are provided solely for the purpose of treating public highways, including roads and pavements, to help ensure safe passage during icy or snowy conditions. The grit from these bins is available for public use but must not be used for private driveways, paths, or any other non-public areas.

2.3 Grit Bins on Unadopted Roads:

WTC will not provide grit bins for unadopted roads. Residents living on roads that have not been adopted by Wiltshire Council are advised to contact the management company of the estate or community responsible for those roads regarding the provision of grit bins.

3. Provision and Replacement of Grit Bins

3.1 Replacement of Existing Bins:

Residents who notice that a Wiltshire Council-owned grit bin is damaged should report the issue to the Wiltshire Council so that the bin can be replaced promptly.

3.2 Additional Grit Bin Requests:

Requests for grit bins on locations not covered by the above provisions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In circumstances where the request meets agreed criteria relating to community safety and local needs—WTC may provide and maintain grit bins.

4. Grit bins: Assessment process and criteria

- 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.
- The request must be signed by at least six households in the relevant road.
- 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 officer.

	Criteria (9 from 11 must be met)		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 must be met		
5	Not on a route already gritted by Wiltshire Council	Criteria must be met		
6	The location is not within 200m of another grit bin location	Criteria must be met		
7	The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is required	Criteria must be met		
8	The location should not obstruct sight lines	Criteria must be met		
9	The location is within a populated urban area	Criteria must be met		
10	The location is within the boundary of the public road	Criteria must be met		
11	Located where they can be easily filled from a maintenance vehicle	Criteria must be met		

5. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains consistent with statutory responsibilities and local safety requirements. Warminster Town Council reserves the right to amend or update this policy as needed.

6. Contact Information

For further information or to submit a request regarding grit bins, please contact Warminster Town Council:

Telephone: 01985 214847

Email: admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk

Address: Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB