

When  
**WINTER**  
bites...



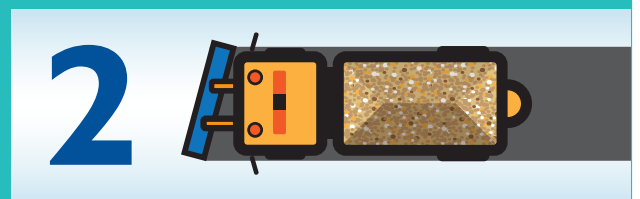
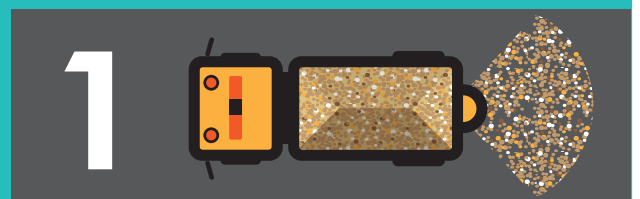
# How salt works

**1** We spread salt to lower the freezing point of the road surface and prevent ice forming. Traffic helps turn the salt into a brine solution for it to be most effective. Our fleet is equipped to spread pre-wet salt, to speed up the process and reduce the amount needed.

Salt itself does not prevent snow from settling. The critical factor is the road surface temperature, which can be above or below air temperature depending on the weather over previous days.

**2** Our aim is to provide a good layer of brine to suppress the point at which the road would freeze and snow start to settle. But as each snowflake melts it also dilutes the solution. This is why heavy snow will settle and then accumulate despite significant pre-treatment.

At this stage we can clear snow out of the way using a plough right down to the road surface with rubber strips fitted across the width of the blades.



## Our winter fleet

The Highways Agency looks after motorways and major A roads in England. It has more than 500 vehicles, including salt spreaders with snowplough attachments and snow blowers. Other roads, maintained by local authorities, are treated according to local priorities, such as main roads, bus routes and access to communities.