



Also a part of winter services: Your organic waste bin

In winter, bins located unprotected outdoors are in danger of being exposed to frost. This is because the organic waste may freeze and adhere to the inner side of the bin due to the cold. When this happens, they can no longer be emptied out by dumping out the contents. Hence: Where possible, place your bins in a protected location in winter. Wrap moist organic waste generously in newspaper. Always allow your organic waste bin to dry out properly after it is emptied. Line it with newspaper, egg cartons, shredded materials, or other similar materials. Because moist waste usually only freezes in the morning when it is the coldest, wait until 6 a.m. to push the bin out to the kerb.

The waste disposal staff will be grateful if you could place your bins at an easily accessible location when there is snow on the ground.



**Further questions?
Contact us!**

EBI

Winter services Clearing and sanding obligations

www.umweltbetrieb-bielefeld.de

Citizen Services Centre

Monday to Friday 7.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

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Email: umweltbetrieb.stadtreinigung@bielefeld.de

For more information, please visit:

www.umweltbetrieb-bielefeld.de

Keyword: Winterdienst (winter services)

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Winter services

Some love the snow – others hate the cold: but there's no avoiding winter. While some look forward to sliding down the snowy slopes or taking in the glittering landscapes on long wintry walks, the white stuff that piles up everywhere equates to a major annoyance for others – snow clearing and sanding obligations.

Who is obliged to perform winter duties?

Apart from the winter services of the City of Bielefeld and the state-level agencies, snow clearing and sanding obligations apply to **individual property owners** as well as **property ownership collectives (Eigentümergeinschaft)**. This obligation can – as is common in practice – be transferred to **tenants**. The lease or house rules (Hausordnung) regulate these obligations in further detail. If a person is unable to perform the snow clearing or sanding tasks himself or only inadequately due to, e.g., work commitments or health limitations, he should seek help from neighbours or obtain professional assistance.



A number of winter services providers have registered themselves with environmental services (Umweltbetrieb) and can be found on the website:

www.umweltbetrieb-bielefeld.de

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When must clearing and sanding take place?

Clearing is mandatory when the snowfall stops and/or when icy conditions or snow are present on weekdays in the period from:

Monday to Saturday 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

There is generally no obligation to clear after 8 p.m.

Where must clearing and sanding be performed?

Pavements must be cleared to a width necessary for pedestrian traffic along the property, approx. 1.50 metres. The snow should not be pushed onto the road, but wherever possible to the edge of the pavement.

Furthermore, access paths to **stops/stations** for public transportation and school buses as well as pedestrian crossings are to be cleared of snow and sanded when icy conditions exist. Combined pedestrian and cycling paths also fall under the scope of obligations of the adjacent property owners.

If no pedestrian path exists in **traffic-calmed zones, residential roads or pedestrian zones**, the edge of the road is to be kept free of snow and ice. Owners of residential property belonging to cleaning class (Reinigungs-kategorie) 07 are also responsible for winter maintenance of **roads** and must sand dangerous areas on roads with grit or thawing agents. Particular attention is to be paid to blind intersections, sharp bends, and stretches with a steep inclination.



Many paths in public parks and green areas are not cleared or sanded. Please be particularly careful when taking walks in winter.



How is clearing and sanding to take place?

The rule of thumb is: First clear, then sand!

First of all, use a snow shovel and broom to remove the large bits. Frozen-on ice and snow that remains on pavements or roads must then be covered with grit such as sand, granulate, or crushed stone. Salt and thawing agents are generally forbidden on public pavements due to environmental concerns! They are only permitted in exceptional cases. For example, when grit does not achieve the expected effect on icy surfaces or on roads with a steep inclination. Always keep the largest possible distance from the adjacent vegetation.



Crushed stone and granulates are sold by building materials suppliers. Crushed stone can be obtained for free in normal household quantities during the opening hours of the city depots (Betriebs-hof). **Please remember to bring your own container!**

Mitte depot: Eckendorfer Strasse 57

Mitte recycling centre: Herforder Strasse 220

Nord recycling centre: Engersche Strasse 245

Süd recycling centre: Fabrikstrasse 32

Ost depot: Am Wiehagen 75

The use of sand from city playgrounds as grit continues to be permitted. Naturally, the sandboxes will be refilled with fresh sand in spring.