

# Too Much Salt in Our Winter Maintenance Recipe!



Residential — Support your local government's effort to reduce SALT!



As stormwater runoff flows over roads, it dissolves and collects *De-icing Salt*, depositing it into local waterbodies.

- \* The main ingredient in de-icing salt is Chloride, which makes its way into storm drains, creeks, and rivers, and eventually contaminating our waterbodies.
- \* Salt causes significant damage to infrastructure—sidewalks, bridges, roads, and vehicles. One ton of rock salt (\$65-\$70) causes greater than \$1,450 in corrosion damage to bridges (Sohanghpurwala 2008).
- \* Chloride chemical in de-icing stays in the water and damages aquatic plant life, which in turn, reduces healthy vegetation that animals, fish and other natural organisms depend on for food.

Using De-icing Salt Efficiently can help Protect your Landscape and Water Quality!

***One teaspoon of SALT can CONTAMINATE  
5 gallons of WATER...FOREVER!***

## Managing Snow & Ice at Home

- \* Physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying de-icing salt
- \* Do not use salt to “burn off” snow (by salting on top of snow)
- \* Sweep up un-dissolved product after a storm has passed
- \* If possible, choose alternative de-icing products



- \* Website: <https://pdf.countyofdane.com/myfairlakes/A3877.pdf>
- \* With small children and pets, consider salt alternatives for eliminating exposure for health risks
- \* Use just enough salt to keep high traffic areas clean of ice

## Materials

**All products have Pros and Cons.** No one material is suitable for every condition. It is best to have a variety to choose from to select the one that works the best, with the least amount applied, in a specific situation.

- \* Abrasives: provide traction on top of packed snow; abrasives and de-icers work better alone.
- \* Salts: will melt snow, must be dissolved to work (liquids act faster than solids)
- \* Acetates: more expensive but less corrosive than salts; have a wide melting range
- \* Plant-based Additives: may reduce corrosion, are sticky and may help dry material stay on the surface longer.

### Resources:

- “Chloride Usage Education and Reduction Program Fact Sheet,” DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup, 2008
- “Winter Parking Lot & Sidewalk Maintenance Manual” Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program Center, Adapted for Lake County II, 2015
- “Cost of Winter Maintenance on Infrastructure” [pptx]. Brooklyn Center, MN: Seventh Annual Road Salt Symposium; Sohahngpurwala, A. A. (2008, February 5)