

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)