

Smart Winter Deicing: Protect Your Roads *and* Your Water!

Keeping roads, sidewalks, and driveways safe in winter is important—but using too much salt can harm our rivers, lakes, and drinking water.

Here's how you can help protect the environment while still staying safe:

Use Salt the Smart Way

- **Shovel first!** Clearing snow reduces how much salt you need.
- **Use only what you need.** A **12-ounce cup** (one coffee mug) is enough to treat **10 feet of sidewalk**.
- **Don't use salt when it's too cold.** Salt stops working below **15°F**. Use sand for traction instead.
- **Spread evenly.** Salt should be spread **sparingly**—not in piles.

Protect Our Waterways

Salt that melts and washes away can:

- Raise chloride levels in streams and lakes
- Harm fish, wildlife, and vegetation
- Corrode vehicles, bridges, and pavement

Every handful of salt that stays on the ground eventually ends up in a waterway.

Consider Alternatives

- Use **brine** (a salt-water mix) for sidewalks—helps prevent ice with less salt
- Try **pet-safe** or **plant-friendly** deicers
- Use **sand** for traction in very cold weather

After the Storm

- Sweep up excess salt or sand to keep it out of storm drains
- Store your deicing products in a sealed, covered container

Together We Can Keep Roads Safe & Water Clean

Small changes make a big difference! Using deicing materials responsibly helps protect our community's freshwater resources while keeping winter roads safe.