ICE MELT: Frequently Asked Questions



1. Which Ice Melt is the best?

APPLICATION TEMP	PRODUCT	FORMAT	EFFECTIVENESS
20º & higher	Rock Salt	Bagged & Bulk	Good
-10º & higher	Clear Path	Bagged	Better
-20º & higher	Treated Salt	Bulk	Better
-25º & higher	Calcium Chloride*	Bagged	Best

^{*}Calcium Chloride pellets are generally considered to be the best ice melting product available.

2. <u>I have children and pets, what are my choices for ice control?</u>

We recommend the <u>Clear Path</u>. It works by diluting slowly and spreading out over the surface. It won't grab moisture like the Calcium which might dry out your pet's paws or track like straight Rock Salt. Please remember that this and other commercial products are intended for use on surfaces which may be travelled on by pets or children. Used properly, it provides safe walking surfaces during icy winter conditions. Removal of excess product is most likely the best remedy for any pet discomfort.

3. Which ice control product will go through a broadcast spreader?

The pelletized products like <u>Calcium Pellets</u> or some blended ice melts like Clear Path are designed to have uniform particle sizes which travel easily through spreaders. Rock Salt and Treated Salt will go through some if conditions are dry and you remove the spreader agitator.

• Need a **colorized** product? Choose the <u>Clear Path</u> Commercial Strength Ice Melt

4. <u>Can I pre-treat? Which product should I use?</u>

Pre-treatment of surfaces is a very effective way to control ice and snow. We have found the best pre-treatment to be <u>Treated Rock Salt</u>. Because it dilutes slowly and provides melting during this dilution, it prevents the snow and ice from bonding to paved areas. During warmer (high 20 degrees) snow events, straight Rock Salt works well to provide for instant snow melting and ice prevention.

5. <u>I have new concrete pavers and some concrete walkways. Which product should I use so I don't damage those surfaces?</u>

<u>Calcium Chloride Pellets</u> and <u>Treated Rock Salt</u> are both effective on cured concrete while not causing damage to the surfaces. The best management practice is to sweep off any excess product after storms to prevent an unnecessary concentration of these products. The most damage happens to paver or concrete when surface ice is melted and then the runoff gets down into the concrete or underneath the paved surface. Later when it re-freezes the water expands causing cracks and other damage. This is called spalling. It can be prevented by using the premium products in sensitive areas so the runoff doesn't re-freeze.