

Easy adaptations and basic awareness of the impacts of traditional road salt can make a big difference in watershed health without jeopardizing your safety. Sensible salting practices can also save communities and households money! Keep reading to learn how to reduce the burden of road salt (sodium chloride) to our budgets and waterways.



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'TIS THE SEASON TO

USE
SALT
RIGHT



Environmental Impacts...

Road salt negatively impacts our soil, water, vegetation, and wildlife, including, but not limited to:

- ❄ Destroys soil stability
- ❄ Decreases soil's ability to store water
- ❄ Increases soil erosion
- ❄ Causes soil to release nutrients back into water
- ❄ Transfers chlorine to soil and groundwater tables
- ❄ Inputs high chlorine levels to streams during dry periods
- ❄ Toxic to fish, insects, grass, and plants
- ❄ Reduces fish and insect reproduction and survival rates

Sensible & Eco-Friendly Salting Practices

#1: Shovel Snow

Remove snow and ice during snowstorm, if possible. This reduces the amount of salt required and increases efficiency.

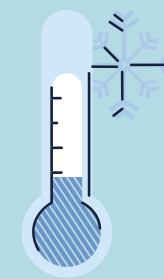
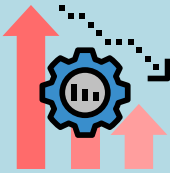


#2: Follow Application Instructions

Contrary to popular belief, more salt does not correspond to quicker melting. Any excess salt is then carried away to our waterways when the ice does melt.

#3: Reduce Chemical Application

Only apply salt where really needed. For example, not every door in your house needs to be accessible. You can also create a path instead of removing all snow.

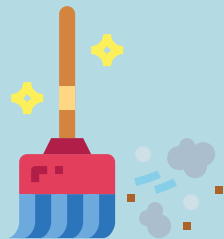


#4: Consider Temperature

Most road salts are ineffective below 15°F. Sand can be coupled with salt for better traction, but it MUST be swept up after use. Sediment is another major pollutant of our stormwater.

#5: Sweep Up Extra Road Salt

Excess salt does not help melt ice! If there is still salt on your driveway or sidewalk once the ice is gone, sweep it up - it is not doing anything.



#6: Pet Safety

Sodium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride can burn paws. Potassium acetate is a safer alternative. Make sure to wash their paws after walking your pets.



Follow these tips to reduce the negative effects of salt on the ecosystems in our watershed!