

Winter Salt Management

You are the solution to stormwater pollution!

Safely maintain walkways and protect our local waters from permanent impairments by reducing salt use.



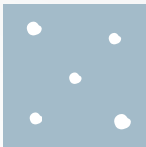
Shovel snow first

Clear walkways to prevent compaction of snow and the formation of ice. The more snow cleared manually, the less salt is needed.



Select the right product

Salt is much less effective at temperatures below 15°F, so use sand for traction when it's too cold, or choose a different deicer.



Scatter your salt

Disperse salt evenly and avoid piles. Spread granules 3 inches apart for maximum benefit. More salt does **not** mean more melting.

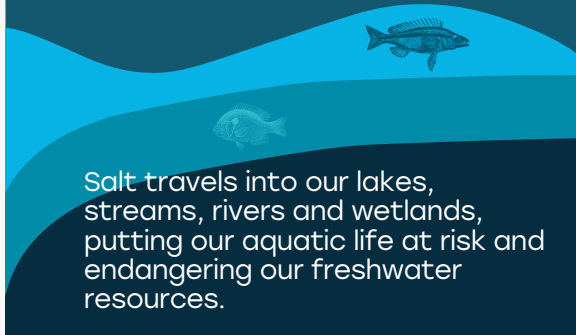


Sweep up excess

Clean up leftover salt, sand and deicer to save and reuse as needed. This keeps it from entering our storm drains and local waters.

Salt can negatively impact the environment

Salt contains sodium and chloride, chemicals that are harmful to both the natural and built environments in high concentrations. Once salt enters the water, there is no cost-effective way to remove it.



Salt travels into our lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands, putting our aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources.

It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt



to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water



Salting Goes Beyond the Pavement

Minnesota has 11,842 lakes and 92,000 miles of rivers and streams. Small amounts of chloride occur naturally in these waters, and many organisms need it to carry out basic functions of life. However, elevated levels can cause cells to lose water and become deprived of nutrients, ultimately killing fish, amphibians, plants and other aquatic organisms.

Using the Right Product

Read the label, and check for specific ingredients.

Sodium chloride is commonly known as rock salt and is the least expensive deicing product. It's hard on the environment and much less effective at temperatures less than 15°F.

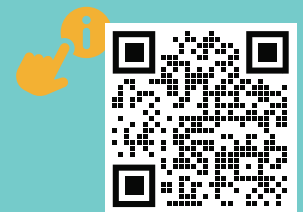
Calcium chloride is effective at temperatures down to -20°F and is less harmful to vegetation.

Calcium Magnesium Acetate is a salt-free product that works down to 20°F and is safer for vegetation and concrete surfaces.

There are no labeling laws when it comes to deicers, so take everything on the label "with a grain of salt."

Hiring a Winter Maintenance Professional?

Ask if they are Smart Salting Certified through the MN Pollution Control Agency.



www.rochestermn.gov/stormwater