

In the winter, it is important to salt driveways, sidewalks, and roads for the safety of drivers and pedestrians. When salt accumulates on surfaces it can pose a threat to the environment, our infrastructure, and our drinking water.


Chloride, a catch-all term for salts, damages freshwater ecosystems by taking out the species at the bottom of the food chain. It also acts as a chemical instigator freeing metals and nutrients bound in the soil, adding more pollution to our fresh water.. Excessive chloride also accelerates infrastructure aging. It causes concrete to crack and need costly fixes as well as decreasing the life span of bridges, buildings, and cars. In addition, salt can contaminate drinking water by corroding pipes and damaging wells.

Overusing salts leads to a damaged environment, expensive infrastructure maintenance, and contaminated drinking water. Don't fret, there are smart salting practices you can do at home or work to protect our freshwater bodies. Each of us can have a positive or negative impact on the health of local freshwater resources. If we each do our part, these individual actions will add up!

SNOW AND ICE TIPS

SHOVEL EARLY


The greatest way to minimize the use of salt is to remove snow before it has a chance to turn into ice.



CHECK THE WEATHER


Use the sun to your advantage and let it do the work for you.

When pavement temperatures are below 15° then salt will not melt ice.



A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Its important to use the proper amount of salt for a given surface. A 12oz mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares.



SCATTER

Use a shaker or handheld spreader to scatter salt evenly. Avoid large piles and aim for granules 1-2 inches apart.

