

REDUCE SALT USE

Best Practices for Clear Sidewalks

De-icing salt pollutes our lakes, creeks and wetlands. When salt melts snow and ice it dissolves in to the water and cannot be removed. As it accumulates in our soil and water bodies it becomes more and more harmful to plants, aquatic life and infrastructure. You can prevent further salt pollution by using the recommendations below.

1. Shovel and Scrape Often

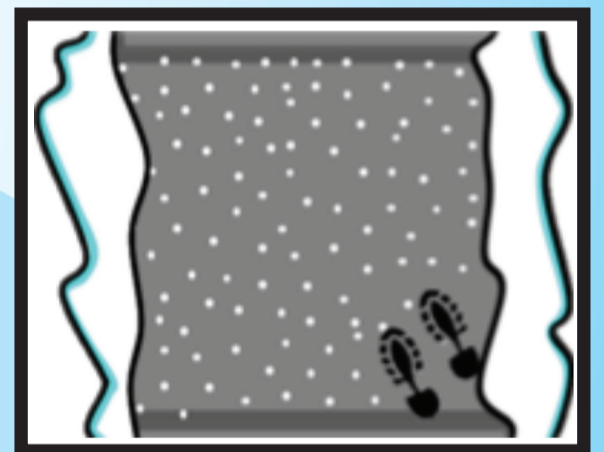
- Shovel before snow turns to ice or compacts
- Select the right tool: metal edged shovels



The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you need!

2. If You Use Salt, Only Use on **ICE**

- A 12 oz coffee cup will de-ice 250 sq ft (That is 10 sidewalk squares or 10' x 25')
- Different de-icers work at different temperatures (See chart below)



3. Sweep Up Leftover Salt and Reuse

Melting Agent	Lowest Melting Temp.*	Things to Know
Urea	20°F	Promotes algae growth in waterways; over-application can harm plants; slow-acting; relatively pet-safe
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	15°F	Harmful to plants; harmful to concrete; very corrosive to metal; cheap and abundant
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl ₂)	-10°F	Harmful to plants; corrosive to metal; relatively high-cost
Potassium Acetate (KAc)	-15°F	Can cause surface slickness; lowers oxygen levels in waterways; biodegradable; relatively high-cost
Calcium Chloride (CaCl ₂)	-20°F	Corrosive to metal; leaves slimy residue; less harmful to concrete
Sand	No melting	Provides traction only; potential pollutant; can be swept up and re-used

**Refers to pavement temperature, which may differ from air temperature.*

Ensure public safety, protect our waters, and save money by using these best practices

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