

# Winter Salt Treatments

It's hard to imagine anyone is eager to get up early to shovel snow from their driveway and sidewalk during the upcoming days of winter, but as long as our neighborhoods have clear roadways and walkways, snow doesn't seem to present much of a problem.

Snow gets piled in grass areas and sections of parking lots where it can eventually melt, however its not just the snow being transported, snowpack piles also include the accumulated cinders, stones, salt and other de-icing chemicals that were used to treat the roads, driveways and sidewalks.

## Tips:

- ◆ **Don't apply more than you need**
- ◆ **Instead of traditional rock salt, look for non-toxic, biodegradable ice-melts**

*Otherwise you may be flushing chlorides and your money down the storm drain*

*Biodegradable may be more expensive, but it's less harmful to environment and it can have lingering effects requiring less applications*

*Traditional rock salt (sodium chloride) corrodes steel in bridges and cars. It can harm plants if it accumulates into the soils and can affect drinking water wells.*

- ◆ **Avoid using sand**

*Snow melt and wind transport the sand and grit into storm drains, which ultimately enters near by streams. Sand settles in stream bottoms, reducing fish habitat and aquatic life.*

Just like rain, snow melt has the ability to transform our lawns into mud flats and fill our stream banks in Spring. Help reduce Winter's polluting impact to our Watershed by monitoring your use of salt and de-icing treatments.

Provided by:



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MS4 Stormwater Program - Public Education and Outreach