

GET A GRIP ON SALT



Be
Wisconsin

**Salt
Wise**



Salt Applicators/ Winter Maintenance Professionals

A winter storm in Wisconsin means a busy day or night for your crews deicing our roads, sidewalks and parking lots to keep citizens safe. While salt certainly can make roads and sidewalks more navigable, it's important to keep in mind that moderation is key. The residue from winter maintenance doesn't go away, and communities are starting to take notice of the negative effects over-application of salt can cause. Research shows that road salt is accumulating in our lakes, rivers, groundwater and drinking water supplies. At least half of this accumulation is traced back to the application of salt on sidewalks and parking lots.



Overusing salt not only breaks down infrastructure, damages vegetation and takes a toll on our aquatic life, but it also causes you and your company to appear indifferent to our environment's future. Using salt correctly will improve your efficiency, accuracy and performance. It will also save you money, impress your customers and protect our lakes, rivers and drinking water.

Salt you put down does not simply disappear, and the amount you put down may be costing extra money and doing more harm than good.

Salt for Safety

There are many ways your company can change the way you go about winter maintenance:

- Always use mechanical methods first to clear snow and ice before even thinking about using chemical means.
- Integrate certain practices into your operations:
 - Calibrate equipment.
 - Store materials properly.
 - Base deicing decisions on pavement temperatures.
 - Pick the proper deicer for the conditions.
 - Use application rate tables.
 - Utilize pre-storm treatments and liquid brine.
- More salt does not mean increased melting. Research shows that heavy salt use in an area does not melt ice more efficiently. Use equipment with calibrated spreaders with automatic controls to maintain a lower salt spread.
- Apply at the right place and time. Curves, intersections and shaded areas are most vulnerable to icy conditions. Applying before a storm hits and using a brine treatment can reduce the actual amount of salt applied.
- Use the free winter maintenance training manuals found at www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/roadsalt.html.
- Attend a training course on winter maintenance. Watch for winter maintenance workshops designed for people who plow and apply deicers to roadways, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.
 - The course will help you understand winter maintenance efficiency. You and your company will be mentioned on wisaltwise.com after completing the training.
- Develop a plan and evaluate and edit client contracts to decrease salt use requirements.
 - Consider adding a consumer/contractor checklist that includes when to plow, when to use deicers, how much deicer to use, which areas are high priority, etc.



Start making changes to your salting procedures today, and reap the environmental and business benefits tomorrow. Check out wisaltwise.com.

Brought to you by the WI Salt Wise Partnership:



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