

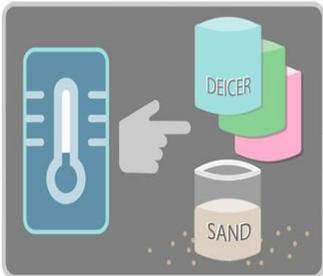
BEST PRACTICES

Use salt wisely by following these 4 steps:



1. Shovel

Clear sidewalk before snow turns to ice and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear, the less salt you need!



2. Select

Salt won't melt ice if the pavement temperature is below 15 degrees, so sand should be used for traction or a deicer alternative.



3. Scatter

Use salt only where it's critical. Correctly applied salt will have about 3 inches of space between granules.



4. Sweep

Sweep up leftover salt for reuse, that way it won't get buried in the next snowfall or wash away when it rains!



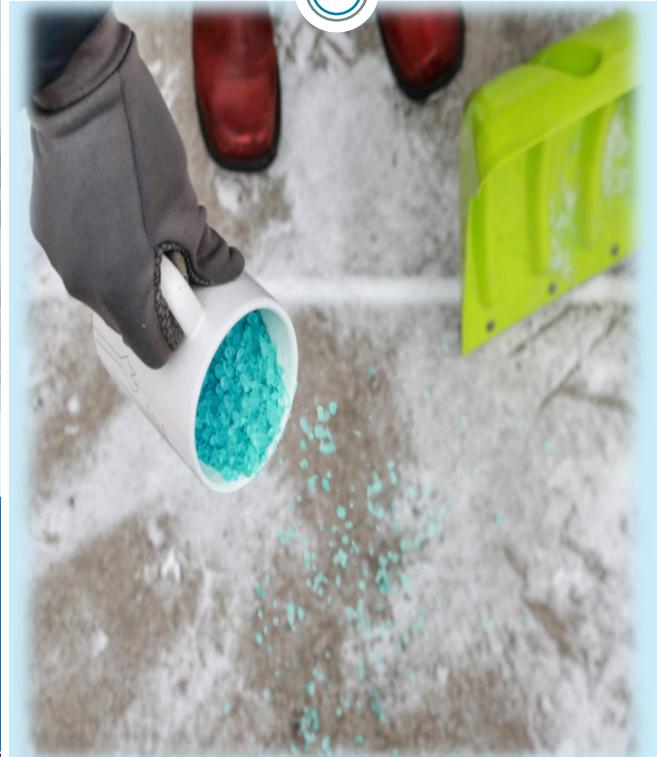
City of Fitchburg Public Works
5520 Lacy Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53711
Phone: 608-270-4260
Hours: Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

WI Salt Wise Partnership: A coalition of organizations working together to reduce salt pollution in our lakes, streams and drinking water.

www.wisaltwise.com

Responsible Salt Use

Information and tips to reduce your salt impact!



WI Salt Wise
Partnership

It takes only
**1 teaspoon
of road salt**
to permanently pollute
5 gallons of water.



Where is the salt coming from?

Road salt has been used as a deicer on streets in the Dane County region since the late 1950s. Every year, more than 525,000 tons of salt is dumped on our state's surfaces, enough to pollute over 400 billion gallons of Wisconsin's water. This winter maintenance salt causes large spikes in chloride levels of area lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Salt is already showing up at alarming levels in local water resources. Our local lakes, waterways, groundwater and soil have been absorbing virtually all of the salt spread in the city for almost seven decades.



A 12 ounce coffee mug full of salt (about 1 pound) is enough to treat 250 square feet of pavement.

Environmental

Salt washes into our waters, putting aquatic life and freshwater resources at risk.

Economic

Once salt gets into the water it is very costly to remove.

Infrastructure

Salt weakens and damages the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads.

Pets

Oversalted sidewalks can irritate pet paws and cause health concerns if ingested.

What are the impacts?

Once salt is in the environment it doesn't go away. Chloride from salt is toxic to small aquatic life and degrades the natural eco-system of our lakes. Treatment, like reverse osmosis or ion exchange, is costly to install and even more expensive to operate. It could cost millions or even billions of dollars, so preventing salt from entering our drinking water resources in the first place is the most cost-effective solution. In 2016, Wisconsin spent \$36,170,919 on salt for its highways. That is about 526,199 tons of salt and that doesn't include what communities, businesses and homeowners applied. Salt also alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth and weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads. One ton of rock salt causes between \$800 and \$3,300 of damage to buildings, bridges and other infrastructure. Winter salt use



can also be hard on our furry friends. Road and sidewalk salt can cause irritation on toes, feet, and skin. Problems can also arise if a dog eats salt or licks their paws after a walk. You can help keep your environment and pets healthy by shoveling first, and applying only the right amount of salt to keep sidewalks safe!

Every year, we use about...

30,000 tons of salt on our roads.

Dane County

That's enough to pollute more than 23 billion gallons of water.

This doesn't include what we use on sidewalks, driveways and parking lots.

Be Salt WISE!