

Easy adaptations and basic awareness of the impacts of traditional road salt can make a big difference in watershed health without jeopardizing your safety. **Sensible salting practices** can also save communities and households money! Keep reading to learn how to reduce the burden of road salt (sodium chloride) to our budgets and waterways.



**SUMMIT  
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'T IS THE SEASON TO

USE  
SALT  
RIGHT



## Environmental Impacts...

Road salt negatively impacts our soil, water, vegetation, and wildlife, including, but not limited to:

- ❄ Destroys soil stability
- ❄ Decreases soil's ability to store water
- ❄ Increases soil erosion
- ❄ Causes soil to release nutrients back into water
- ❄ Transfers chlorine to soil and groundwater tables
- ❄ Inputs high chlorine levels to streams during dry periods
- ❄ Toxic to fish, insects, grass, and plants
- ❄ Reduces fish and insect reproduction and survival rates

## Sensible & Eco-Friendly Salting Practices

### #1: Shovel Snow

Remove snow and ice during snowstorm, if possible. This reduces the amount of salt required and increases efficiency.



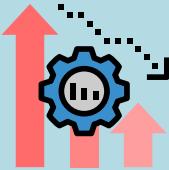
### #2: Follow Application Instructions

Contrary to popular belief, more salt does not correspond to quicker melting. Any excess salt is then carried away to our waterways when the ice does melt.



### #3: Reduce Chemical Application

Only apply salt where really needed. For example, not every door in your house needs to be accessible. You can also create a path instead of removing all snow.



### #4: Consider Temperature

Most road salts are ineffective below 15°F. Sand can be coupled with salt for better traction, but it **MUST** be swept up after use. Sediment is another major pollutant of our stormwater.



### #5: Sweep Up Extra Road Salt

Excess salt does not help melt ice! If there is still salt on your driveway or sidewalk once the ice is gone, sweep it up - it is not doing anything.



### #6: Pet Safety

Sodium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride can burn paws. Potassium acetate is a safer alternative. Make sure to wash their paws after walking your pets.



Follow these tips to reduce the negative effects of salt on the ecosystems in our watershed!