

6 REASONS to rethink ROAD SALT

If used correctly, road salt can be a helpful safety precaution, but excessive use has dangerous consequences for our waters.



Pollutes our waterways.

Rain and melting snow flush road salt and other pollutants into storm drains and ditches, emptying pollutants directly into our waterways and Lake Michigan.



Permanently changes water quality.

One teaspoon of salt is all it takes to pollute five gallons of water permanently. Toxic chloride levels in our waterways can lead to instant death of fish and other aquatic life.



Damages our gardens and plantings.

Most plants are salt-sensitive and can become damaged by salt.



Harms our pets. Paws of dogs and other pets can become dried out and cracked due to excess salt.



Ineffective in cold temperatures. When temperatures dip well below freezing, road salt will no longer melt ice.



Damages property. It weakens and corrodes cars and building materials that make up our homes, bridges, and roads.



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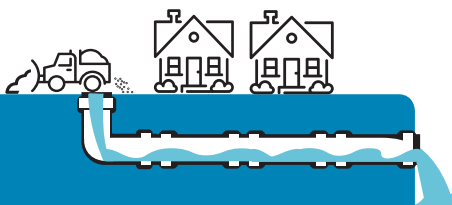
Reducing road salt

& **MAKES SENSE** **SAVES CENTS**

Most road salts (sodium chloride) only stop ice from forming above 14 degrees Fahrenheit. Adding more salt doesn't keep you safe, it only costs you money.

Help keep our waterways safe during winter months by following these steps:

-  **Shovel Early and Often.** This reduces the need for salt. (Pro-tip: sweep up extra salt and reuse!)
-  **Use only the salt you need.** 12 oz. of salt is all that's necessary for a 20 foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. (Pro-tip: a coffee mug's worth is usually all you need.)
-  **Talk to your friends & neighbors.** Share the toxic consequences of over salting with the people in your life. (Pro-tip: Write to your local representative supporting responsible road salt practices for roads, sidewalks and public parking lots.)
-  **Become a Road Salt Monitor.** Help Milwaukee Riverkeeper understand where road salt is entering our waterways.



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www.milwaukeekeeper.org/road-salt