



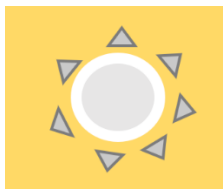
Best Practices for Smart Winter Salting

You can keep sidewalks and driveways safe this winter while protecting our waters by following these simple steps:



Shovel

Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.

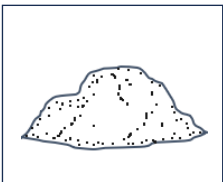


Let the sun take over

If your cleared area gets some sun, then you may not need to do anything else even if the temperature is below freezing.



It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. We can all work together to use the right amount of salt, which may be none at all!



Sand

Sand is abrasive, so when applied on ice, it makes it safer to walk on the slippery surface immediately. If it snows again, then you'll need to reapply it.

"Sandbox sand" is difficult to spread because of the smaller grains and sticks together easier; so look for "sand" or "masonry sand."



Scatter *If needed at all...*

If you use salt, scatter it so that there is space between the grains. Believe it or not, a 12 oz coffee mug of salt is enough to treat 2 parking spots or 10 sidewalk squares.



Switch

When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.



Select a Certified Contractor

Check to see if your contractor is already certified through the [WI Salt Wise Winter Salt Certification Program](#). If not, encourage them to become certified and to follow appropriate application rates.