



Mille Lacs Lake
Watershed Management Group

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Smart Salting Protects Minnesota Waters



Who has ice on their driveway or sidewalk right now? Recent weather has made it slick out there, but remember that more salt does not mean more melting. Being a smart salter can help protect our lakes and rivers!

Minnesotan's scatter over 365,000 tons of salt each year to help melt ice and protect drivers and pedestrians, but it only takes a teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. When the snow melts, de-icing salt, which contains chloride, runs into nearby bodies of water and harms aquatic wildlife. Chloride accumulates in the water over time, and there is currently no way to treat or remove it. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommends a low-salt diet for our lakes, streams, and rivers.

Smart salting strategies can help reduce chloride pollution in state waters!

Salt SMART by following these simple tips:

- **Shovel.** The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.
- **15 degrees (F) is too cold for salt.** Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.
- **Apply less.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12- ounce coffee mug. Leave about a three-inch space between granules (as shown in image). A hand-held spreader can help to apply a consistent amount.
- **Sweep up extra.** If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Recycle this salt or sand somewhere else or throw it away.
- **Act locally.** Support local and state winter maintenance crews in their efforts to reduce their salt use.
- **Promote smart salting.** Work together with local government, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits to find ways to reduce salt use in your community.
- **Learn more** on the MPCA's website. www.pca.state.mn.us



Information and photos courtesy the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency