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When snow and ice melt, the chloride-containing salt goes with it, washing into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride.

Less is more.

It takes only one teaspoon of deicing salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. High concentrations of chloride are toxic to the fish and plant life in our waters.



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Protect our clean water

There are many ways to reduce salt use while maintaining high safety standards.



Shovel. The more snow and ice you shovel or blow, the less salt you will need to use and the more effective it can be. Start early and keep up with the storm. You may even decide that salt isn't needed.



Select the right product. Most salts stop working at 15 degrees. Use sand instead for traction (but note that sand does not melt ice).



Scatter. More salt does not melt ice faster. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (an average parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. These products take time to work.



Sweep up extra. If you see salt or sand on dry pavement, it is no longer working. Save this salt or sand to use somewhere else.



Get MPCA Smart Salting certified by attending trainings for winter maintenance crews or property management.
www.pca.state.mn.us/smartsalting



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