

Snow Removal Smarts

Did You Know?

Salt, sand and other products are commonly used to keep roads, sidewalks and driveways free of snow and ice in the winter time. However, did you know that salt and sand can harm our environment by polluting our drinking water? Once snowmelt occurs, the accumulated salt - if not properly disposed of - can be carried into streams from storm sewer catch basins resulting in harmful effects to aquatic life. Sand is equally problematic. If not swept up, it clogs stormwater basins and fills streambeds, adversely effecting water and aquatic life. Alternative deicing materials include potassium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride, urea and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA). These products have distinct advantages and disadvantages in terms of effectiveness and environmental impact.



Public Works Departments spread deicing agents to prevent ice from forming on local roads.

How do Municipalities Exercise Their Rights in Snow Removal?

They...

- **Use the RIGHT material.** Sand should be used carefully and only in locations where traction is especially needed, such as low speed intersections, curves and hills. The right chemical to be used will be selected based on the current road surface temperatures.
- **Use the RIGHT amount.** Warmer roads can be treated with less salt. Some trucks contain thermometers to help dictate how much chemicals to apply.
- **Apply at the RIGHT place.** Hills, curves/corners, shaded sections of roads and bridges should be prioritized. Sensitive areas near streams and other source waters that are not as well traveled, may be designated as low no salt zones.
- **Apply at the RIGHT time.** Your Public Works Department makes every effort to apply products as early as possible to minimize the amount of chemicals needed.



Salt on the street not in our watershed!

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