Salt affects our water

Commercial Snow and Ice Care

Questions to ask when hiring a snow removal company:

- Have the operators been trained and certified in snow and ice control best practices?
- At what temperatures do they apply salt?
- Do they use alternatives for salt at lower temperatures?
- Do they recommend sweeping in the spring to dispose of used sand?
- How do you spread your salt/salt alternative?
- If salt will be stored on site, will it be covered?

Things to watch for:

- Are there trails or piles of salt?
- Are they applying salt in temperatures below 15º F

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission

West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission

Members
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This brochure created in collaboration with WMWA and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Help keep our water clean!

You Can Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Any salt that enters a storm drain does not go to a waste treatment facility. It goes directly into a local lake or river.

Did you know…

Since the early 1950s our metro area waters have become increasingly salty. Chloride levels have risen so high that many metro area creeks are now considered unhealthy.

Chlorides harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, damage buildings, and corrode vehicles, roads and bridges. Too much salt results in costly damages and serious environmental consequences.

1 *Before* the storm

Apply a liquid de-icer before snow storms to prevent snow and ice from building up. However, this is not a substitute for shoveling; it just makes it more effective.

Tip: You can make your own liquid de-icer! Mix 2 cups of hot water and one-half cup of rock salt (not table salt.)

2 *Shovel* that snow

Shovel, snow blow, plow and/or sweep. These are all effective measures that will remove snow and minimize ice build-up.

3 Less *is* better

When applying salt, if there are leftover crystals still visible, the salt has been over applied. The left-over salt can be swept up and reused or disposed of in the trash.

4 Temperature *Matters*

At low temperatures salt begins to become less effective; check your product for more details. When the temperature falls below 15º F consider using sand as an alternative to salt.