

WHY BE SALT SMART?

Salt is polluting our rivers.

Chloride levels are increasing in our rivers, streams, and groundwater. Once salt gets into the water, it is difficult to remove.



It only takes **one teaspoon of salt** to contaminate **5 gallons of water**.

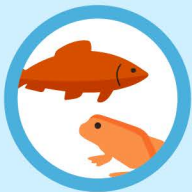


Where does the salt come from?



Chlorides in our rivers primarily come from **winter road salt**, and also from **water softener salts**.

The Impact of Chlorides



Harms aquatic life

- Chloride can be toxic to small aquatic life and disrupt aquatic community structure and diversity



Is expensive to remove

- Once chloride is in the water, it is very difficult and expensive to remove



Corrodes infrastructure

- Corrodes concrete roads and bridges, as well as our cars and around business entryways



Hurts our pets

- Burns, dries, and cracks our pet's feet
- Causes illness when licked off and ingested

HOW CAN WE BE SALT SMART?

Road salt keeps us safe,
but more salt does not equal more safe.

Let's be Salt Smart. Together we can protect our rivers and streams by shoveling snow first and using the right amount of salt.



Residents

- Always shovel first.
- Be Salt Smart when salting driveways and sidewalks. Only put salt where needed.
- Scatter salt so it is not clumped together.
- A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares.



Municipalities and private contractors

- Adopt best management practices that reduce the amount of salt used, while still maintaining levels of safety.



Commuters

- Give yourself extra time to drive safely.
- Don't Crowd the Plow.
- Stay home during snow storms if possible.



Learn more at saltsmart.org