

The Chicago region is one of the largest consumers of salt on the continent, and it's shown in unseen ways. Chicago alone, uses the equivalent of 6 Soldier-Fields' worth of salt each year! Damage to roads, water sources, animals and wildlife, and in Human health are all indicators of salt overuse. To help reduce salt's impact on our area, we ask the average home-owner to do 3 simple things:



Phone: 312-454-0400

Fax: 312-454-0411

Web: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/flip-future-leaders-in-planning>

Sources

1. SDOT Snow day November 23: Pedestrians dressed for cold temps. 11/23/10. Attribution, noncommercial.
2. J-fi. New Shoes. 12/20/08. Attribution, noncommercial, share alike.
3. SDOT Snow day November 23: Salt is stored at SDOT's yard. 11/23/10. Attribution, noncommercial.
4. Atelier Teee. Chicago Skyline 1. 4/28/07. Attribution, noncommercial, no derivative works.
5. AndyGoodwin. Abandoned car (1/16/09). 1/16/09. Attribution, noncommercial, share alike.
6. Kelly, Walt. Illinois State Water Survey. "Road Salt (part 1)" <https://illinois.edu/blog/view/789/62191>. Accessed 4/21/2012

TO LEARN MORE...

Did You Know...

That the Chicago region is one of the largest consumers of salt on the continent?

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For this winter, here are some simple tips to reduce our salt impact and save money.

1.) Be Proactive, Not Reactive.

Taking precautionary measures before a major snowstorm ultimately leaves less work to be done in snow and ice removal. Some tips to save time, money, and effort are:

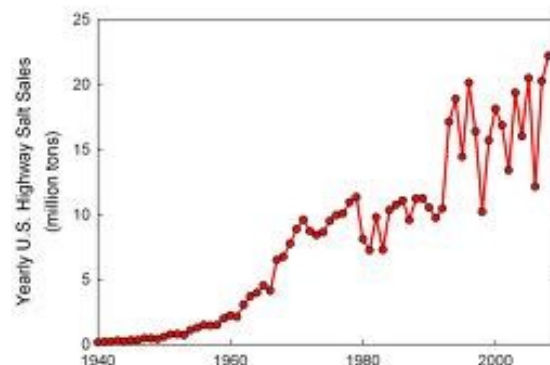
- **A mixture of vinegar & wiper fluid applied to a car windshield prevents ice buildup overnight.**
- **To lessen snow accumulation, salt prior to snowstorms. It takes four times as much salt to remove snow than to prevent snow.**
- **A mixture of sidewalk salt and corn syrup increases ice-removal ability**
- **Wash cars regularly to prevent salt induced corrosion.**



2.) Less Is More

Over-salting can be counter-productive when trying to de-ice walkways. Often times too much salt can slow down the melting time and leave slippery rock crystals behind.

- **Know the best conditions in which to use your de-icing material (common salt doesn't work in temperatures less than 15° F)**
- **Over-use of salt makes it easier for crystals to be tracked inside the home and may damage plants and water sources.**
- **Invest in a hand-held (or rolling) salt-spreader to help spread de-icing product more evenly. This also reduces the amount used and ultimately saves money.**
- **Read product labels to see proper usage amount**



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3.) Alternatives

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Salting in the region has caused an increase in water source contamination. This very costly as most Chlorides can't be removed from water naturally. Salting kills plants, and animals (including house-pets) can be affected harmfully when salt crystals are ingested, or when in-contact with paws. Lastly, salt corrodes metals and concretes found in cars and sidewalks. Although more expensive, there are some less destructive and more effective alternatives to salt.

- **AlfaTrak, or EcoTraction are biodegradable, and softer alternatives to provide traction in icy conditions**
- **If found in department stores, Calcium-Magnesium Acetate, Potassium Acetate, or Magnesium Chloride are less harmful de-icers than common salt.**
- **Although seemingly more expensive, these alternatives may save money in other areas such as the environment and safety.**