WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

Reduce Winter Salt Use

Discourage improper and over-application of road salts to protect our waters from the effects of increasing sodium chloride concentrations

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

PATRICK LEAHY Lake Champlain Basin Program

NE IW PCC

Winter safety is top priority, but over-salting doesn't mean safer!

Excessive salting of roads, sidewalks, and parking spaces is polluting our freshwater and damaging infrastructure, causing...

-- Reduced availability of potable water
-- Detrimental impacts on plants and wildlife
-- Increased susceptibility to toxic algae blooms in lakes
-- Costly corrosion of infrastructure

How to Salt Smart!

1) Scrape; then salt if needed, or ice before a storm: Salt is most effective when placed as a direct barrier between the surface and snow/ice.
2) Distribute salt evenly, not in clumps
3) Use the right amount of salt for your space: a cup of salt is sufficient for about two parking spaces
4) Rock salt is stops being effective below 15 degrees: Consider alternative methods when it's colder
5) Sweep leftover salt from sidewalks and driveways after a storm for later reuse or proper disposal

Learn More!

Search "411 on salt" at maryland.gov for a story map about excessive use of winter salts and its impact on you

Search "Road salt and water quality" at uvm.edu/seagrant to see some of the science behind salt as a deicer and potential suggestions for contractors

Search "5 tips to reduce your salt use" at ottawariverkeeper.ca for homeowner tips and additional resources for the classroom and beyond

Watch "Salt Use and Water Quality with Kris Stepenuk" on Youtube to examine the impacts of salinity on Lake Champlain and what you can do about it

Figure 1. Regional Stormwater Protection Team. Salt Smart! Lakesuperiorstreams.org