

# Salt impacts our water

# Residential Snow and Ice Care

## 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.



*Help keep our  
water clean*

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the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District*

# 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."*

*Storm drains carry excess water from streets and homes to nearby lakes and rivers; that makes your property a water-front property. During the cold winter months, salt that is applied to our streets eventually flows into our lakes and rivers. Help keep our waters clean this winter by following these few simple steps.*



Photo by Greg Nash

## 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.



Photo by Phil Corless

## 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.

**Tip:** You can make your own liquid deicer! Mix 2 cups of hot water and one cup of salt.

## 3 Less is better.

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



Photo by Fortin Consulting

## 4 Temperature Matters

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