

# Best Practices for Smart Winter Salting



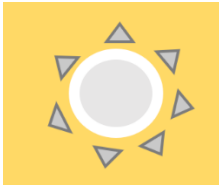
*It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. We can all work together to use the right amount of salt, which may be none at all!*

You can keep sidewalks and driveways safe this winter while protecting our waters by following these simple steps:



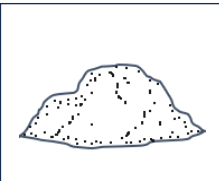
## Shovel

Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.



## Let the sun take over

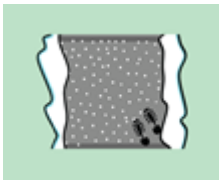
If your shoveled area gets some sun, then you may not need to do anything else even if the temperature is below freezing.



## Sand

Sand is abrasive, so when applied on ice, it makes it safer to walk on the slippery surface immediately. If it snows again, then you'll need to reapply it.

"Sandbox sand" is difficult to spread because of the smaller grains and sticks together easier; so look for "sand" or "masonry sand."



## Scatter *If needed at all...*

If you use salt, scatter it so that there is space between the grains. Believe it or not, a 12 oz coffee mug of salt is enough to treat 2 parking spots or 10 sidewalk squares.



## Switch

When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.



## Select a Certified Contractor

Ask your contractor if they have already sent staff to a Smart Salting workshop. If not, encourage them to attend a workshop to become certified and to follow appropriate application rates.

Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition  
**Clean water starts with you!**

[stormwater-ducky.org/smart-winter-salting/](http://stormwater-ducky.org/smart-winter-salting/)

Wisconsin  
**Salt Wise**

[WiSaltWise.com](http://WiSaltWise.com)