

SAFER DE-ICING IDEAS

Sidewalk Deicer

**For icy steps and sidewalks in freezing temperatures, mix 1 teaspoon of Dawn dish soap, 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol, and 1/2 gallon hot/warm water and pour over walkways. They won't refreeze. No more salt eating at the concrete in your sidewalks!

** The freezing point of standard 70-percent rubbing alcohol is -20 degrees F.

Car Deicer Spray

Fill a spray bottle up 1/4 - 1/3rd of the way with water. Next, add isopropyl alcohol (yes, the same thing you can buy at any pharmacy for about \$1) until the entire bottle is full.

Shake vigorously until your homemade car deicer is blended.

The next time you're dealing with an icy windshield, spray liberally on the window.

Sensible Salting Tips

- ❄️ For dry/powdery snow, sweep or shovel the snow as soon as possible to eliminate the need for deicer.
- ❄️ For heavy/wet snow, apply deicer as soon as snow begins falling in order to prevent it from bonding and creating an ice barrier.
- ❄️ For sleet/freezing rain, apply deicer early in order to prevent build-up.
- ❄️ Most road salts are ineffective below 15 degrees F. Save time, energy, money and the environment by checking the temperature *before* you salt.



- ❄️ Only apply road salt where you really need it by shoveling and salting areas that you use. If the ice is gone but there is still salt on your driveway, sweep it up.
- ❄️ Salt waste alters the ecosystem allowing for the spread of invasive species.



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Environmental Impacts

Road salt affects the soil, lakes, and humans in negative ways. Whether it is through chemical changes of clay or to the toxins that may be formulated as a result; the end consequence is disastrous to the ecosystem.

Negative impacts of road salt:

- * Toxic to fish, insects, grass, and plants
- * Reduces fish and insect reproduction and survival rates
- * Destroys soil stability & decreases soil's ability to store water
- * Increases soil erosion & causes soil to release nutrients back into the water
- * Transfers chlorine to soil and groundwater tables
- * It's corrosive to bridges, buildings, vehicles and infrastructure; increasing maintenance costs by billions of dollars
- * Inputs high chlorine levels to streams during dry periods



- * Sodium Chloride, calcium chloride and magnesium chloride can burn the paws of your pets. Wash pets paws after walking them.

Lake Erie Don't *Waste* It!

Eco-Friendly & Safe Salting Practices



**CAUTION
ICE!
WATCH
YOUR STEP!**

Public Involvement Public Education
Educating the public on our impact on Lake Erie

Lake Erie Don't *Waste* It

On the north end of Lorain County lies beautiful Lake Erie. Lake Erie has a complex ecosystem with many species in constant interaction.

When road salt *WASTE* runoff enters Lake Erie waters, it alters the chemistry and changes the ecosystem. This cause in effect kills fish and organisms that can not live in the new chemical makeup of the Lake water.

Unfortunately, this change encourages growth of invasive species. An **invasive species** is a plant, fungus, or animal species that is not native to a specific location and which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.

Phragmites australis is an invasive wetland grass from Africa and Asia that is not native to North America. Phragmites, reaches up to 15 feet in height and occurs in still water areas of marshes, lake shores, riverbanks, and disturbed or polluted soils.



At an average of 225 stems in a square meter, Phragmites crowds out native plants and wildlife, forming tall, dense impenetrable stands.