Salt Pollutes Our Waters

Help keep Nine Mile Creek on a low salt diet.

Protect our lakes and creeks by hiring a snow removal contractor certified by the MN Pollution Control Agency.

Doing it yourself? Always shovel, snow blow or plow first, and only apply a deicer if needed.

Learn more at: www.ninemilecreek.org

Hiring a Snow Removal Service

How to Hire a Contractor that Uses Less Salt
### Follow these steps to help protect our lakes and creeks:

1. **Sweep up extra.** Salt and sand on dry pavement is not doing any work and will be washed into the creek. Sweep up the extra and reuse it.

2. **Don't over apply.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 feet². One pound of salt is about a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.

3. **Hiring a Snow Removal Service Questions to Ask**

   **Not sure what questions to ask when hiring a contractor?**

   Try these:
   - Are you certified by the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in Snow & Ice Control Best Practices?
   - If you aren’t certified, would you be willing to attend a Winter Parking Lot & Sidewalk Maintenance training?
   - What best practices do you use to reduce the amount of salt applied?

   Let them know where to go for more information! Tell them to search “MPCA Salt Education” on the internet.

   • Are you certified by the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in Snow & Ice Control Best Practices?
   • If you aren’t certified, would you be willing to attend a Winter Parking Lot & Sidewalk Maintenance training?
   • What best practices do you use to reduce the amount of salt applied?

   **Certified contractors** have:
   1. Attended a Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk workshop.
   2. Passed a test.
   3. Agreed to apply best practices to reduce chloride impacts.

   Visit www.pca.state.mn.us/water/educational-resources for a list of certified individuals.

### Want to do it yourself?

Follow these steps to help protect our lakes and creeks:

1. **Shovel that snow.** The more snow that you can shovel or snow blow, the less salt you need. Get out early and keep up with the storm.

2. **Don’t over apply.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 feet². One pound of salt is about a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.

3. **Temperature matters.** Most salts stop working below 15° Fahrenheit (pavement temperature), so should not be applied. Instead, use a small amount of sand for traction.

4. **Sweep up extra.** Salt and sand on dry pavement is not doing any work and will be washed into the creek. Sweep up the extra and reuse it.

   - It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to forever pollute 5 gallons of water.
   - How much salt do you use in a winter?