

Salt Pollutes Our Waters

Hiring a Snow Removal Service



Salt from our sidewalks
& driveways ends up
here.

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



*How to Hire a
Contractor that Uses
Less Salt*

Hiring a Snow Removal Service

Questions to Ask

Want to do it yourself?

All around the Twin Cities lakes and creeks are becoming too salty from deicers used on roads and sidewalks in the winter. In the land of 10,000 *freshwater* lakes, this is a problem.

You can help! Hire a contractor that has agreed to protect our waters by using less salt.

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.

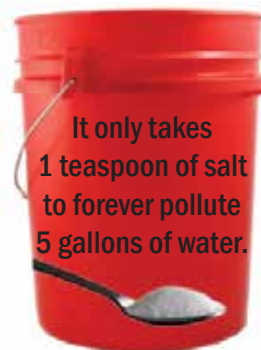


Not sure what questions to ask when hiring a contractor?

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.



How much salt do you use in a winter?

Follow these steps to help protect our lakes and creeks:

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.



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.



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.



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.

