

Salt Pollutes Our Waters

Winter Maintenance



**Help keep
Nine Mile Creek
on a low salt
diet.**



Salt from our sidewalks
& driveways ends up
here.

Hire a snow removal contractor
certified by the Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency in
Snow & Ice Control Best Practices.

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



Learn more at:
www.ninemilecreek.org



**Hiring a
Snow Removal
Service**

Hiring a Snow Removal Service

Questions to Ask

Want to do it yourself?

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

You can help! Hire a snow removal 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. Completed and passed a test.
3. Agreed to apply best practices to reduce chloride impacts.

For a list of certified individuals, visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/training.



Not sure what questions to ask when hiring a contractor?

Try these:

- Have you attended a Winter Parking Lot & Sidewalk Maintenance training?
- 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 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 simple steps to help protect the health of our waters:

Shovel that snow. The more snow that you can shovel or snow blow, the less salt you will 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.

