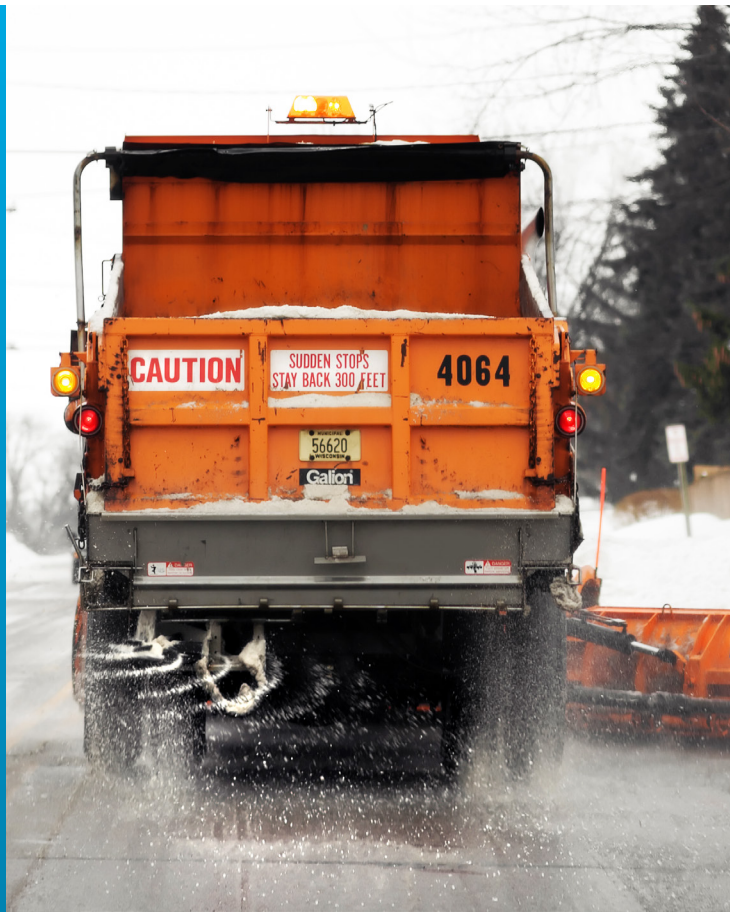
Salt pollutes.

When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride, and it takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Less is more when it comes to applying salt because at high concentrations, chloride can harm the fish and plant life in our waters.

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY



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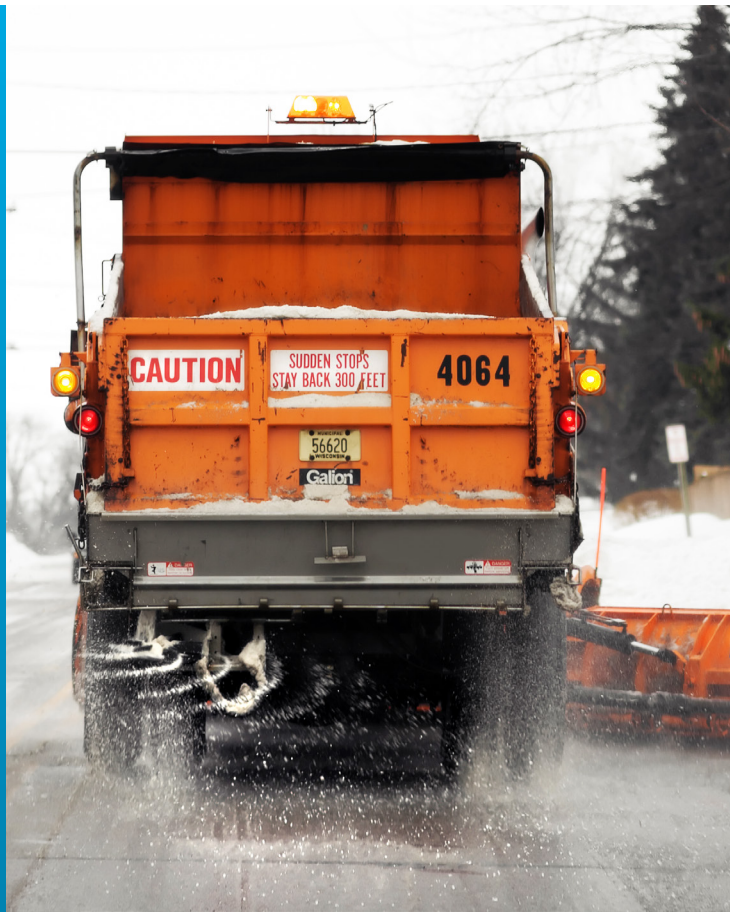

Follow these simple rules to protect our clean water

There are many ways to reduce salt use while maintaining high safety standards.

Shovel. The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be. Whether you use a shovel, snow blower, snow plow, or ice scraper, get out there as early as you can and keep up with the storm. You may even decide that salt isn't needed.

15 degrees is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction (but note that sand does not melt ice).

Slow down. Drive for the conditions and make sure to give plow drivers plenty of space to do their work.

Be patient. Just because you don't see salt on the road doesn't mean it hasn't been applied. These products take time to work.

More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (an average parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. You may consider purchasing a hand-held spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.

Sweep up extra. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Use this salt or sand somewhere else.

Visit the MPCA chloride web pages for more information:

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-and-water-quality

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