

Concern of Chloride

Chloride, found in road salt, has become a major pollutant in our local streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. Each year around 430 tons of salt is used statewide. It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.



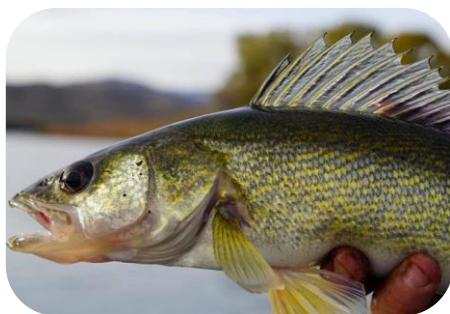
Chloride corrodes the concrete on sidewalks, roads and buildings. Corrodes carpets in stores, cars and homes. Corrodes metal on buildings, bridges and cars



Road salt spray can kill trees alongside the road, cause salt burn, damage buds or cause witches broom disease, as shown above. Salt in the soil inhibits its ability to store nutrients and causes reduced growth, leaf burn and dieback.



Chloride attaches to water making it heavier and sink to the bottom. The heavier water cannot properly mix and causes oxygen depletion at the bottom. This harms bottom dwelling fish and aquatic organisms.



Salt is toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. It has big impacts on their reproductive success, growth and food resources.



Moose are attracted to road salt and cause an increase in accidents. Birds, such as house sparrows and finches, can die if they ingest road salt.



Pets can become sick if they ingest salt and is harmful in large amounts. Salt can also cause inflammation and dry/cracked paws.

Types of Deicers

Please note that deicers are not regulated and cannot be determined as environmentally friendly

Chemical	Melting Temperature*	Things to Know
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	15°F	Most common salt used. Comes in rock salt form. Highly corrosive to metal, harmful to concrete and plants. Cheap cost.
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl ₂)	-10°F	Corrosive to metal, harmful to concrete and plants. Relatively high cost.
Calcium Chloride (CaCl ₂)	-20°F	Corrosive to metal. Less harmful to concrete.
Potassium Acetate (KAc)	-15°F	Biodegradable, but depletes waterbodies of oxygen.
Coffee Grounds (The darker the color the better)	N/A	Provides traction on top of ice. Has the potential to melt ice due to the dark color attracting sunlight.
Sand	N/A	Does not melt ice, but adds traction. Potential pollutant, sweep up when done using to re-use it.

**Referrers to the pavement temperature, which may differ from air temperature*