

Road Salt Working Group Report to O.E.A.C. June 6, 2023

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Update

The Road Salt Working Group has submitted key information and photographs to City staff for the purpose of producing postcard-size handouts to educate the public on road salt impacts and reducing usage. It is anticipated that this will be completed over the course of the summer months. After receiving feedback from the corporate communications team and operations department on a previous draft, the following text and photographs were submitted for consideration:

Road Salt: Less is More

Residents can protect the environment by using less salt with these tips:

- *Spread a small amount of salt evenly on driveways and walkways when snow or temperatures below freezing are expected to prevent ice formation.*
- *You don't need a lot – a 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat a 500-square-foot driveway or about 10 squares of sidewalk.*
- *To reduce the likelihood of needing salt, clear snow from your driveway and walkways as soon as possible – this helps to reduce ice build-up.*
- *Direct downspouts away from walkways and driveways.*
- *Salt is less effective at temperatures below -10 degrees Celsius. At colder temperatures, residents could consider alternative materials like sand, grit, non-clumping kitty litter or magnesium chloride.*
- *Sweep up any loose salt and store it safely for reuse.*
- *Remember: reducing road salt helps protect our freshwater lakes and streams.*



Recommendations

1. That the O.E.A.C. recommend to City staff to approve the above text for use on educational postcards for public distribution, and to select 1-2 of the above photographs to accompany this text.