



Yakima County Regional Stormwater Management Group



When snow and ice melt, dissolved salts on the roadways are carried to nearby storm drains. These salts are carried to our streams and ponds. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride. Chloride can harm fish and plant life at high concentrations.

See the tips below for keeping salt use down and maintaining healthy waterways.

Shovel first. The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you'll have to use!

Slow down. Drive for winter conditions and be courteous to slow moving plows. The slower they drive, the more salt will stay on the road where it's needed.

Use Sparingly. More salt doesn't mean less ice. Use less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet.

1 lb of salt = a heaping 12 oz coffee mug

Average parking space = 150 square feet

Be patient. Salt takes time to work, and applying more won't make it work faster. Give the salt adequate time to melt the ice. This will cut down on unnecessary contamination.

Sweep it up. If extra salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Sweep up excess for reuse or disposal.

Wait for warm weather. Most salts stop working efficiently when the temperature is below 15 degrees. You can use sand instead for traction in warmer temperatures.

Help keep our waterways clean this winter

