

Safe Handling and Storage of Road Salt

Public Outreach EDU-3



Source Water Protection is a provincial requirement of the *Clean Water Act* meant to protect our municipal drinking water sources (lakes, rivers and underground) from contamination and overuse.

Why is This Important?

Application, handling and storage of road salt have been identified under Ontario's *Clean Water Act* (OCWA) as a potential threat to drinking water sources.

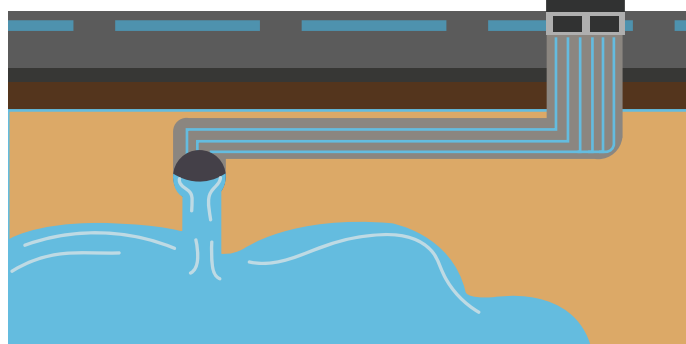
Sodium and chloride from road salt can find their way into groundwater sources.

Snow removed from parking lots and roads are concentrated with salt, oil, grease and heavy metals from vehicles and litter.

Storage of Road Salt

Be careful not to leave road salt to harden and clump when you store it. An airtight container can help prevent these issues. Some pieces of charcoal added to the airtight container will also help with preserving road salt in their perfect condition at all times.

If you plan to store salt in bulk, stack the bags or buckets of salt in a closet, garage or other storage space that includes climate control. High levels of humidity can cause salt to solidify into an unusable brick. Be sure you keep the storage space cool and dry, with very low humidity.



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Strategies for Protecting Source Water and the Environment

- Shovel and sweep as soon as possible. after or during a snowfall to prevent ice from developing.
- Redirect downspouts away from walkways and driveways.
- Store snow so that it will not run across paved surfaces toward catch basins or ditches.
- Do not oversalt. Use only what you need to melt the snow or ice on your driveway or sidewalk.
- Give salt time to do its work.
- Salt is best used between 0 and -12 degrees Celsius. Salt does not work below -18 degrees Celsius.
- Follow weather conditions to know when it is best to apply salt.
- Sweep up and reuse the loose salt, sand and de-icer to stop it from being washed into water sources when melting occurs.
- Return salt to your salt storage area. It is still useful and effective for melting snow.

Background

The City of Orillia drinking water comes from Lake Couchiching and groundwater wells.

Protecting our sources of drinking water from contamination helps to ensure clean water now and into the future.

Do your part to protect our drinking water!

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region
ourwatershed.ca

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