

Snow and Ice Management – Commercial Properties Privately Owned

Public Outreach EDU-3(P)

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 the Ontario's *Clean Water Act* (OCWA) as a potential threat to drinking water sources.

Sodium and chloride from salt is finding its way into groundwater sources. Snow removed from parking lots is concentrated with salt, oil, grease and heavy metals from vehicles and litter.

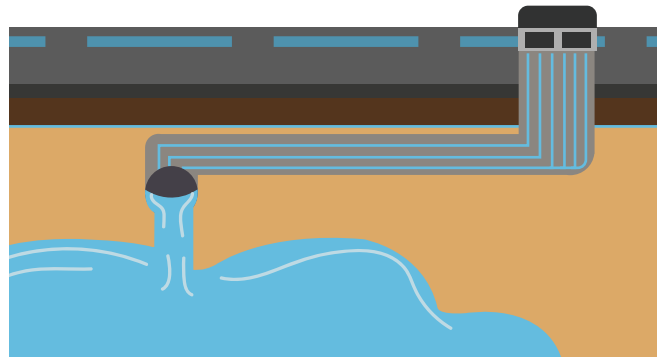
Too much salt may damage vehicles causing rust and leaks to hydraulic brake system and frame damage.

When to Apply Salt

When weather conditions affect your parking lot, and a sheet of sidewalks are slick with ice, it's tempting to coat your entire commercial property with a thick blanket of rock salt or ice melt. However, using too much salt can be as dangerous as not using enough salt. Efficient parking lot salting is essential.

Storage of Road/Parking Lot Salt

You should be careful not to leave road/parking lot salt to harden and clump when you store it. An airtight container can help prevent this. Adding some pieces of charcoal into the airtight container can also help extend salt life. This will help you with preserving road salt in its perfect condition at all times.



Safe Handling and Storage of Road Salt

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 for now and in the future.

Do Your Part to Protect Our Drinking Water!

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region
ourwatershed.ca

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