

### “Salt Our Streets Not Our Creeks”

As soon as the snow starts falling, the snowplows hit the road! With the price of salt increasing by around 75% this year, there may be more plowing and less salting on our streets. By using the right amount of salt mixed with other additives, and applying it properly to our roads, driveways, and sidewalks, we can save money, stay safe, and protect our waterways!

Rain and snowmelt washes salts into creeks, lakes, and groundwater where it is harmful to organisms and plants and can contaminate drinking water. With communities mixing salt with other additives, like beet juice and cinders, there is a reduction in the amount of salt used, which reduces the amount that flows into our waterways with stormwater. Since salt is most effective when the temperature is above approximately 18 degrees, beet juice is applied to roadways with salt because it raises the temperature of the snow, allowing the salt to work and helps to keep the salt from bouncing off the roadway. Also, beet juice is not toxic and therefore less harmful to the environment than salt alone. Cinders, also known as the bottom ash of coal combustion, are often mixed with salt to provide traction on the road.

To prevent stormwater pollution this winter, The Lake County Stormwater Management Department asks you to follow these guidelines:

- **Don't over do it!** Only use the necessary amount of salt.
- Apply salt to the driveway *before* it snows.
- **Sweep up excess salt** and reuse it. If the salt truck dumps a pile of salt near your house, sweep it up.
- **Store salt indoors**, in your garage, and out of the rain and snow.
- **Use calcium chloride** deicing agents instead of sodium chloride. By using calcium chloride, less salt is needed, it works at lower temperatures, and it is more environmentally friendly than sodium chloride.
- Mix salt with alternatives like sand and gravel where applicable.
- Along roads and driveways, plant salt-tolerant species that will absorb excess salt.
- Do not pile snow removed from salted areas near streams or storm drains.
- Beat cabin fever, get out and shovel. It's good exercise if you are physically fit.
- Take your car to a commercial carwash; don't let the rain wash the salt away!

We all want to stay safe this winter! But please help to protect our waterways and prevent stormwater pollution; everyone can make a difference. Clean water is Lake County's Lifeline! For more information contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department. [www.lakecountyohio.org/smd](http://www.lakecountyohio.org/smd). To report an illicit discharge contact the Lake County General Health District at (440) 350-2543.

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