

# WHY BE SALT SMART?

## Salt is polluting our rivers.

Chloride levels are increasing in our rivers, streams, and groundwater. Once salt gets into the water, it is difficult to remove.



It only takes **one teaspoon of salt** to contaminate **5 gallons of water**.



## Where does the salt come from?



Chlorides in our rivers primarily come from **winter road salt**, and also from **water softener salts**.

## The Impact of Chlorides



### Harms aquatic life

- Chloride can be toxic to small aquatic life and disrupts aquatic community structure and diversity



### Is expensive to remove

- Once chloride is in the water, it is very difficult and expensive to remove



### Corrodes infrastructure

- Corrodes concrete roads and bridges, as well as our cars and around business entryways



### Hurts our pets

- Burns, dries, and cracks our pet's feet
- Causes illness when licked off and ingested

# HOW CAN WE BE SALT SMART?

**Road salt keeps us safe,  
but more salt does not equal more safe.**

*Let's be Salt Smart. Together we can protect our rivers and streams by shoveling snow first and using the right amount of salt.*



## Residents

- Always shovel first.
- Be Salt Smart when salting driveways and sidewalks. Only put salt where needed.
- Scatter salt so it is not clumped together.
- A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares.



## Municipalities and private contractors

- Adopt best management practices that reduce the amount of salt used, while still maintaining levels of safety.



## Commuters

- Give yourself extra time to drive safely.
- Don't Crowd the Plow.
- Stay home during snow storms if possible.



Learn more at [saltsmart.org](http://saltsmart.org)