

Salt impacts our water

Storm drains carry excess water from streets and homes to nearby lakes and rivers; that makes your property a waterfront property. During the cold winter months, salt that is applied to our paved surfaces eventually flows into our lakes and rivers. Help keep our waterways clean this winter by following the simple steps outlined in this brochure.



For more information on the City of Owatonna's Stormwater Program contact :

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Snow and Ice Care



Follow these simple steps to help keep our waterways clean!





Stormwater Pollution

Road salt – Rock salt can leach into the soil, changing its chemical composition, and flow into local waterways where it can poison fish and aquatic organisms. It can also harm sensitive plants. Salt is highly corrosive to paved surfaces, buildings, and metal. Alternatives to rock salt include materials that increase traction, such as kitty litter and sand. For situations where a product that actually melts ice is required, look for rock salt substitutes such as those made with beet juice extracts, a byproduct of beet sugar production that would normally be disposed of as waste. Magnesium chloride, which is safer to use near plants than rock salt but not as effective in very cold conditions, is another possibility.

YOU Can Prevent Stormwater Pollution!

1. Before the storm.

Apply a liquid deicer before snow storms to prevent snow and ice from building up. However; this is not a substitute for shoveling, it makes it more effective.



2. Shovel Shovel Shovel.

Shovel, snow blow, plow and/or sweep. These are all effective measures that will remove snow and minimize ice. Shovel snow early and often during the snow storm. Don't forget to shovel around your fire hydrant for effective first response!

3. Less is better.

When applying salt, if there are leftover crystals still visible then the salt has been over-applied. The leftover salt can be swept up and reused. Always use less than 4 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. (one coffee mug is 1 pound)

4. Temperature matters.

At low temperatures, salt begins to become less effective. Check your product for more details. When the temperature falls below 15 degrees use sand for traction as an alternative to salt.

