



Use salt carefully!
1 teaspoon of salt pollutes 5 gallons of water.

- Automatic Vehicle Location system

With an AVL system you can see where the snow plow vehicles are deployed in near real time during a winter event. This is typically done through a web portal. Vehicles are depicted on the map via icons indicating the type of actions underway, when and where a vehicle is actively spreading material, or when and where the plow blade is down and pushing snow. Users may hover a cursor over an individual vehicle icon and get a pop-up box describing the vehicle and what it is doing.

Iowa Department of Transportation reported that equipping their trucks with Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) provided a return on investment of \$6.40 for every \$1.00 expended.⁷



Both AVL and MDSS have shown good results in reducing salt used.

- Maintenance Decision Support Systems (MDSS)

MDSS combines advanced weather prediction service, advanced road condition prediction and your agency’s winter maintenance practices for anti-icing and de-icing to generate road treatment recommendations on a route-by-route basis. The goal of MDSS is to suggest more effective use of maintenance resources and increase safety, reliability and mobility on roadways.

The MDSS system allows crews to input real-time conditions, including road and ambient temperature, type of material being used and the application rate. After compiling the information provided by the crews, along with weather reports, the system will then provide suggested treatments based on the information and models. The system may tell the operator to re-treat the road at a later time, apply different products at different rates, or simply to continue current procedures. The suggested treatment can then be followed or the operator can override the system.

MDSS systems have a scenario selector that can be used as a training tool. For more information on MDSS, see Appendix D. There is a report, “Analysis of Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) Benefits & Costs,” which summarizes the experiences of several states using MDSS.

Anti-icing before the Event

Anti-icing is the process of putting down a liquid deicer before a winter event. It can be a cost-effective strategy that optimizes, and therefore reduces, chemical usage. It is a proactive approach that should be considered first in a series of strategies for managing most winter events. By applying a liquid deicer before an event, you can prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement, or even prevent frost from forming on the roadway altogether.

Anti-icing is not always the answer, but when it is, it can buy you time for physical removal that is easier and more cost-effective. To determine when it is appropriate to anti-ice, see an example of an anti-icing decision chart in Appendix B.

Anti-icing procedures look different from other winter maintenance activities and may cause concern with the general public. Educate your customers about anti-icing techniques and their value ahead of its use.

Selection and Storage of Anti-Icing Products

- Liquids are the most effective anti-icing agents.
- At temperatures below 15°F, it may be more cost effective to use a chemical other than sodium chloride brine (see Appendix B for anti-icing cost model).
- Hygroscopic liquids bring the moisture from the air to the pavement surface (similar to dust control on gravel roads). They give added benefit on cold winter pavement because of this property but they can be troublesome at warm (over 28°F pavement temp) or in humid conditions. The most commonly used hygroscopic products are CaCl₂ or MgCl₂.
- When using hygroscopic products, it is critical to not over-apply.

Guidelines for Anti-icing Product Application

These are only guidelines and not exact recommendations. Generally it is better to under-apply rather than over-apply anti-icing materials. So start low and increase rates, instead of starting high and decreasing rates. Forms such as those shown in Appendix B of this manual are useful to record and track your work and observations, so you can refine your use and understanding of anti-icing products.

Condition	Gallons per lane mile		
	CaCl ₂ or MgCl ₂	Brine	Brine Blends
Regularly scheduled application	15-25	20-40	Ask manufacturer
Prior to frost or black ice	15-25	20-40	Ask manufacturer
Prior to light or moderate snow	15-25	20-50	Ask manufacturer

Figure 5: Anti-icing Application Rates

Key points for Anti-icing

- Apply liquids at half the rate (not half the concentration) for the first application of the season, or after a prolonged dry spell. On dry roads, liquids tend to mix with oil from vehicles and cause slippery conditions if over-applied.
- Consider spot-applications on hills, bridge decks, curves and intersections if predicted conditions warrant and you are just beginning an anti-icing program. Continue to expand anti-icing until you treat most of the areas that you de-ice.
- Utilize anti-icing for light freezing drizzle and light frost events; it can be very effective.