- Apply your anti-icing agent during low traffic times and during regular work hours; this saves product and reduces staff costs.
- Avoid anti-icing under blowing conditions, in areas prone to drifting or anywhere else you would not use salt.
- Avoid applying before a predicted heavy rain.
- Apply liquid anti-icers 24-48 hours in advance of an event. The closer to the event start time the better. Tire action and wind wear away material.
- Remember that re-application isn't always necessary. The residual effect of anti-icing applications can remain for up to five days if precipitation or traffic wear-off does not dilute the material.
- Apply liquids with stream nozzles to maintain bare pavement between application areas.
- Use a spray skirt when anti-icing. This helps significantly in directing product to the roadway where it is needed. Adding a simple spray skirt behind the truck's spray bar significantly increases the amount of product reaching the roadway.[8]

Look at anti-icing's costs and benefits and evaluate how it can best serve you. Anti-icing can provide significant cost, safety, and environmental benefits. Appendix B contains anti-icing resources and a link to a Cost Benefit Analysis Tool that can help you understand how anti-icing can provide a return on your investment in equipment.

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Liquid deicers are faster acting and stay in place better.

During the Event

During a winter precipitation event there is very little extra time. Preparation in advance of an event is the key to success. Integrating best management practices (BMPs) into your operations can help provide safety, appropriate levels of service, and protect Michigan's natural resources. Good documentation is one of the BMP's that helps move your organization ahead. Make sure this is integrated into your winter operations. Appendix E has example charts that you can use for recording your activities.

Effective Use of Plows/Underbody Blades

Plowing or blading is the best approach to snow removal. It can be the most cost-effective approach when all the factors (cost of chemicals, damage to public roadways and infrastructure, etc.) are considered. Physical removal of snow should always be done prior to the application of deicing materials.

Key Points for Plowing/Blading

- Blade prior to an application of chemical in order to minimize product dilution.
- Coordinate blading activities to eliminate windrows at intersections and prevent removal of another operator's deicing material.
- Remove snow from roads as quickly as possible to reduce compaction.
- Avoid pushing snow over the bridge rails and onto roads or water beneath.
- Pay attention to wind conditions. If shoulder blading isn't critical, then delay until wind speeds are lower.
- Reduced speed minimizes the risk of a snow cloud. Lift the blade and wing if a snow cloud forms; do not slow down or brake.

Loading and Hauling Salt

A substantial amount of salt can be spilled, and potentially wasted, during the loading and hauling process. Some easy steps can be taken to ensure that this purchased material ends up only where it is needed, on the roadway.

Key Points for Loading and Hauling

- Load inside the salt shed.
- Sweep outdoor loading areas frequently.
- Fill but do not overfill trucks. One city that uses very little salt inserts a cement base in the truck bed to provide extra weight, thus requiring less material to be loaded.
- Tarp your loads when transporting material.
- Install spill shields to plug up gaps in truck bed.
- Install sander plates to prevent free-fall of salt or sand.

Using Abrasives

Use winter sand and other abrasives when temperatures are too cold for deicing chemicals to be effective, or when immediate traction is needed after a freezing rain event. Be aware that sand does not melt anything. It only provides temporary traction, and only when it is on top of snow or ice. Sand will clog sewers, ditches, and streams. As a result, avoid sand use as much as possible.

Our lakes are turning into wetlands as they fill in and become shallower. Unrecovered winter sand accelerates this process.

A salt/sand mix is generally not recommended as salt reduces the effectiveness of sand, and sand reduces the effectiveness of salt.

Key points for Abrasives

- Sweep up excess sand after each event.
- Apply sand in extreme cold weather, when salt is ineffective.
- Avoid salt/sand mixes. Determine if you need melting or temporary traction and choose the proper tool.
- Employ sand only for short-term traction needs. It has no melting capability.
- Note that, in limited situations such as a freezing rain event, a 25 to 50% sand/salt mix has been documented as effective in increasing friction.[9]

Material Application

Deicing is a reactive operation in which a chemical is applied to the top of snow, ice or frost already on the roadway. Forms such as those shown in the Appendix F of this manual are useful to record and track your deicing work.

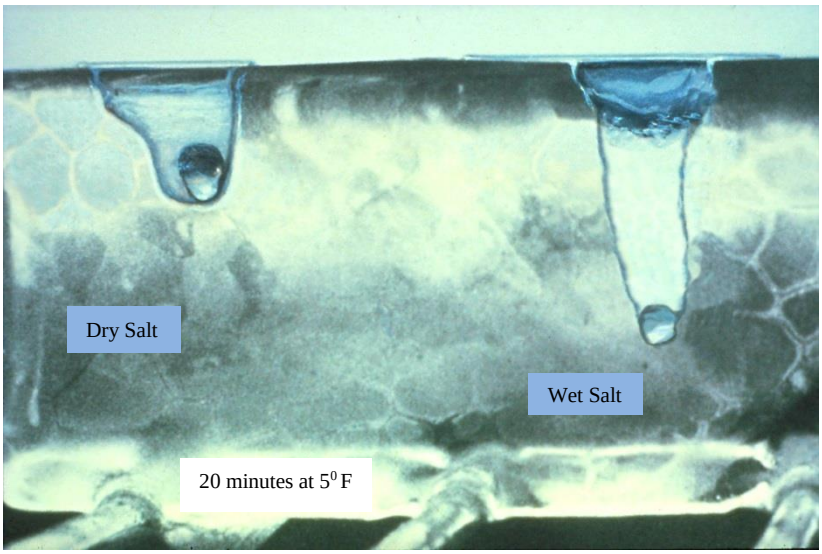
Removing ice that has already bonded to the pavement can be difficult, and removing it mechanically causes wear on equipment and roads. Enough ice must be melted to weaken the bond between the ice and pavement in order to make physical removal

possible. Breaking the bond after it is formed requires more chemical than preventing the bond from forming in the first place.

Integrating science into winter maintenance allows us to use an appropriate amount of product for deicing. Most application rates can be reduced by the best maintenance practices already discussed, such as proper calibration and using closed-loop spreaders. But there are two major handicaps to the effectiveness of a salt application during an event: the precipitation which dilutes it, and the next blade pass which can remove it before it has had a chance to work.

Slower truck speed and prewetting or pretreating salt are best practices for reducing salt waste and lowering the necessary application rates. Applying dry material is a common but ineffective practice. Research and results in the field show that prewetted or pretreated material stays on the road surface better, and is therefore more effective. Another way to reduce salt use is to minimize applications during the storm event. This helps keep blading activities from removing the deicing salt.

Dry salt is slow to dissolve. Adding liquids not only keeps more of the salt on the roadway, it also helps to increase the speed of melting as it jump-starts this process. The greater the liquid to granular ratio, the better control you have over your product during application, and the faster its performance once it is down. The photograph below illustrates the melting speed of prewetted salt versus dry.



Liquids allow you to use less product overall.

Figure 6: Melting Comparison of Dry Salt vs. Prewet Salt
Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation bulletin #22

How to reduce application rates

1. Speed of application. MDOT recently proved that reducing the speed of application from 35 mph to 25 mph can prevent up to 40% of the salt discharged from being wasted.[10] The speed of trucks during application of granular material should be 25 mph or less, or the lowest safe speed under the conditions.

2. Vary application rates. Use the higher rate listed for the first pass, and reduce on any subsequent passes. Adjust rates as needed if you know you will be able to only make one pass.

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Salt that is bounced off the roadway or is spread outside the travel lanes is money down the drain.

3. Spread pattern. The most effective spread pattern is a windrow of salt on the centerline or highpoint in the roadway. Set spreaders lower to the ground or use a chute to reduce bounce and scatter. See Appendix D for instructions on how to build a chute or how to set-up a grid to run a test and get your own bounce and scatter data.

4. Pretreated or prewetted salt. Wet salt remains on the road longer (less bounce and scatter) than dry salt and works faster too. With pretreated salt the liquid to granular ratio is about 4 to 6 gallons per ton. In prewetting operations, the ratio of liquid to granular can vary greatly. It starts at about 8 gallons per ton, upwards to over 100 gallon/ton (slurry). Some organizations have nearly abandoned granular products altogether and are applying straight liquids.

5. Application rate. Make sure your organization has an application rate chart that is based on pavement temperatures. Continually work to refine your chart and lower your application rates.

6. Deicers. Not all deicers perform the same under the same conditions. By choosing the combination of liquid and granular deicers that is least toxic and that works the best at your pavement temperature, you can reduce your application rate and costs, as well as your environmental impact. Figure 7 compares four different applications, using different materials (from salt/sand to a higher ratio of salt/liquid), and all would potentially achieve satisfactory results.

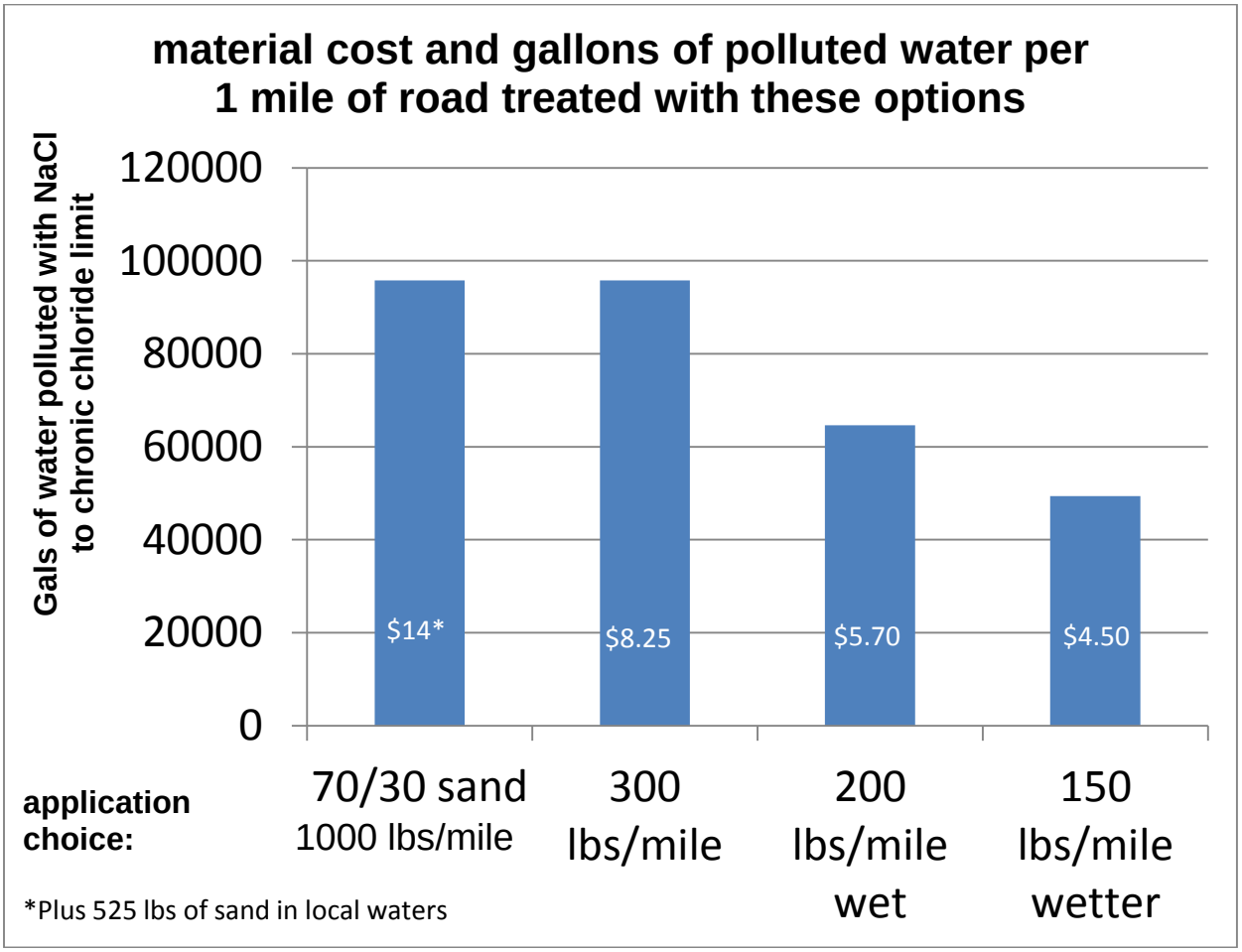

Figure 7: Material Cost and Gallons of Water Polluted

The purchase cost based on $55 ton salt, $16 ton sand and $0.20 gallon brine. Per federal chronic chloride standards of 230 mg/l, 1 pound of salt pollutes 320 gallons of water, 1 gallon of brine pollutes 728 gallons of water. Wet = 10 gal/ton and Wetter = 15 gal/ton

There are many ways to accomplish a safe winter road. We can see from this chart that material selection is a key factor in providing the opportunity to reduce application rates while maintaining effectiveness. By looking at all the factors--performance, cost, and environmental damage--winter maintenance professionals can make the most informed decisions on how to maintain their level of service. See Appendix F for the new Clear Roads Fact Sheet on the Toxicity of Deicers to run your own calculations.

Selecting a Deicer

When selecting a deicer, be careful when looking at the melting temperature on marketing materials. The eutectic temperature is often cited, which is the lowest possible temperature at which a solution remains liquid. At this temperature it would take a very long time for the product or solution to melt ice. Instead, you need to know a product's practical melting temperature range.

Sodium chloride (NaCl, or road salt) is the most widely used of the deicers. It is effective at pavement temperatures above 15◦F. Because it doesn't work well at colder temperatures, it is often over-applied in attempts to get it to work better. See the chart below for the melting capacity of NaCl at various temperatures. Ask your vendor for a similar chart for the products you buy or are considering buying.

By adding liquid to granular salt, you can speed up melting and use less salt.

Avoid using dry rock salt at pavement temperatures below 15° F.

Pounds of Ice Melted Per Pound of Salt

Pavement Temp (F)	One Pound of Salt (NaCl) melts	Melt Times
30	46.3 lbs. of ice	5 min.
25	14.4 lbs. of ice	10 min.
20	8.6 lbs. of ice	20 min.
15	6.3 lbs. of ice	1 hour
10	4.9 lbs. of ice	Dry salt is ineffective and will blow away before it melts any significant amount of ice.
5	4.1 lbs. of ice	
0	3.7 lbs. of ice	
-6	3.2 lbs. of ice	

Figure 8: Ice Melting Capacity of Sodium Chloride at Various Pavement Temperatures

- For a chart showing practical temperature ranges for other deicers, see Figure 12.
- For more information on the toxicity of deicers see "Determining the toxicity of deicing materials," a Clear Roads research project, in Appendix F.
- Melting all the snow or ice on the road is not necessary. This is an overuse of materials. Apply just enough to loosen the bond between the road and the ice/compacted snow so it can be effectively bladed off.
- Use pavement temperatures and trends to help you to apply the right product application rate at the right time. Generally use less chemical when temperatures are warm or rising, and more when they are cold or falling.
- Avoid straight salt when temperatures below 15◦F; use other deicers such as $CaCl_2$ and $MgCl_2$ to obtain better melting at lower temperatures. If you do not have a good alternative available, use sand for traction until pavement temperatures warm.

Spread Patterns

The spread pattern in Figure 9 is a visual representation of the application method on which the application table is based. That is, you blade only (no chemical application) going out, and blade and apply in a windrow to the centerline on the return trip.

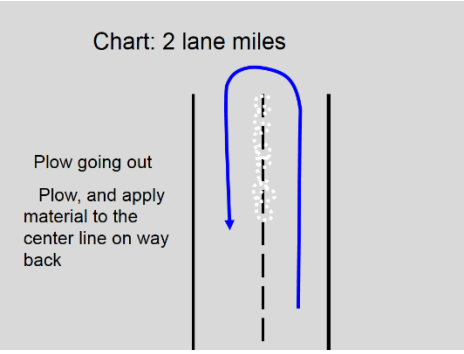

Figure 9: Suggested Plow and Apply Pattern for Deicing

One of the biggest challenges with salt is to keep it on the road long enough for it to work. Narrow your spread pattern to apply salt to the crown of the road. As the salt melts it will migrate across the drive lanes. By driving slowly and applying salt to the center line in a windrow or tight spread pattern you will waste less salt. This applies to all roads, but is essential on high speed roads.

There are various devices and modifications to your spreader that you can make to help you create a tighter spread pattern. Chutes that direct the salt from the spreader to the pavement are one good example. Other examples include skirts below and around the spreader, holes in the spreader, zero velocity spreaders and or simply turning your spreader off.

Strive for an even spread pattern at low application rates. Equipment that was designed to deliver large amounts of sand likely will have trouble delivering a steady spread pattern with a low rate of salt. If this is the case, you will need to retrofit or change your equipment to make it able to deliver an even spread pattern at a low rate. When you purchase new equipment, make sure it can deliver a very low application rate (100 pounds/mile) with an even spread pattern.

Deicing Application Rate Guidelines

Every organization should have an application rate chart that is based on pavement temperatures. This allows you to standardize your operations. The chart below is an example of an application rate chart developed for Minnesota. This chart was developed by a team of city, county and state winter maintenance experts. The rates were chosen with the goal of defining sufficient rates to clear and hold the roads after an event, assuming all of the best practices were done before and during the event.

No chart will be perfect. Make your own chart and keep improving it. See if you can continue to lower the rates as you become more efficient in your winter maintenance practices.

Deicing Application Rate Guidelines

24 feet of pavement (typical two-lane road)

These rates are not fixed values, but rather the low end of a range to be selected and adjusted by an agency, according to its local conditions and experience.

Lbs/two-lane road						
Pavement Temperature (F) and Trend	Weather Conditions	Maintenance Actions	Salt Prewetted/Pretreated with Salt Brine	Salt Prewetted/Pretreated with Other Blends	Dry Salt, least effective*	Winter Sand (Abrasives)
>30 F ↓	Snow	Plow, treat intersections only	**80 (40/lane mile)**	**70**	**100***	Not recommended
	Freezing Rain	Apply product	**80-160**	**70-140**	**100-200***	Not recommended
30 F ↓	Snow	Plow & apply product	**80-160**	**70-140**	**100-200***	Not recommended
	Freezing Rain	Apply product	**150-200**	**130-180**	**180-240***	Not recommended
25-30 F ↑	Snow	Plow & apply product	**120-160**	**100-140**	**150-200***	Not recommended
	Freezing Rain	Apply product	**150-200**	**130-180**	**180-240***	Not recommended
25-30 F ↓	Snow	Plow & apply product	**120-160**	**100-140**	**150-200***	Not recommended
	Freezing rain	Apply product	**160-240**	**140-210**	**200-300***	Not recommended
20-25 F ↑	Snow or freezing rain	Plow & apply product	**160-240**	**140-210**	**200-300***	Not recommended
20-25 F ↓	Snow	Plow & apply product	**200-280**	**175-250**	**250-350***	Not recommended
	Freezing Rain	Apply product	**240-320**	**210-280**	**300-400***	**400**
15-20 F ↑	Snow	Plow & apply product	**200-280**	**175-250**	**250-350***	Not recommended
	Freezing Rain	Apply product	**240-320**	**210-280**	**300-400***	**400**
15-20 F ↓	Snow or freezing rain	Plow & apply product	**240-320**	**210-280**	**300-400***	500 for freezing rain
0-15 F ↓↑	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand	Not recommended	**300-400**	Not recommended	500-750 spot treat as needed
<0	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand	Not recommended	**300-400**	Not recommended	500-750 spot treat as needed

To calculate for 1 lane, divide application rate numbers in half

Use lower end of application rate range when using super-saturated mixes

Source: Chart: Minnesota Snow and Ice Control Field Handbook for Snowplow Operators (2012).

Figure 10: Application Rate Chart for Deicing

Dilution: the cause of refreeze

An ice control product will work until dilution causes the freeze point of the remaining brine on the roadway to equal the current pavement temperature. At this point, the material will stop melting and you may experience re-freeze if the pavement temperature is dropping. This process is called the dilution of solution.

How long a treatment will last depends on five factors: pavement temperature, application rate, precipitation, beginning concentration, and chemical type. These factors explain why one application rate will not fit all winter events.

Pretreated Stockpiles

Pretreating is mixing a liquid deicer into the stockpile of salt or sand. The liquid used is not brine but a deicer that is hygroscopic and contains a corrosion inhibitor, and may also have stickiness to it. Often a dye is added to help identify the treated pile. You can apply pretreated salt without any equipment changes. Pretreated salt is more effective than dry salt and can allow you to lower your application rate.

- Purchase the pretreated salt from a vendor or mix it on site. If you choose to mix your own be accurate in your measurements.
    - Start out with dry salt. See the salt moisture worksheet in the materials testing section.
    - Treat the stockpile with a liquid deicing chemical (not brine) at 4-6 gallons/ton. Be consistent and check rates.
    - Mix up enough for one storm, not the entire season.
- Store pretreated stockpiles indoors on an impervious pad, consistent with Rule 5 requirements. See Appendix F to locate this information from the DEQ.
- Be aware that pretreated stockpiles have a higher risk of leaching. If you have containment limitations with your storage area, mix up just enough for one event rather than enough for the season. This will limit the leaching risk.

Treated salt piles need proper storage due to a greater risk of leaching

Prewetting Method for Deicing

Prewetting is the addition of a liquid to granular material by means of an on-board truck system. Liquid and granular are combined most often at the spreader, but sometimes in the auger. Wet salt has several advantages; it bounces less and melts ice faster. Prewetting requires some equipment changes, but this practice provides the flexibility to switch chemicals or liquid/granular ratio depending on conditions. Just as with pretreated salt, you can reduce your application rates by using prewetted salt.

- Include salt brine, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, brine blends, acetates and others among the options you consider for prewetting.
- Check your liquid concentration before using. Figure 12 lists many of the optimal concentrations.
- Start with application ratios of 8-14 gallons/ton; this is the typical starting place for most organizations.[11]
- Super-saturated or slurry mixes activate even more quickly.

- Be sure to properly size the dry volume capacity in the hopper versus liquid holding capacities when purchasing on-board prewetting systems. It is vital that the total truck weight capacity is considered, as liquids add considerable weight to the overall load.

Direct Liquid Application for Deicing

Straight liquids are most commonly used for anti-icing, pretreating salt piles and prewetting on board the truck. However, it is becoming more common, especially in warmer winter conditions, to de-ice with straight liquid product. This is an advanced winter maintenance activity. Called “direct liquid application,” or DLA, this deicing technique is more difficult and should only be attempted by those very familiar with the use of liquid deicers in other areas of winter maintenance. It is possible to create a more slippery surface if straight liquids are used improperly for deicing.

- Attempt liquid-only deicing only after you have mastered the anti-icing and prewetting uses of liquids, and have the proper equipment for the liquid deicing operation.
- Having sufficient pressure on the streamer nozzles, so that the liquid penetrates the snow or ice and spreads out <u>below</u> the snow and ice, is the key to effective deicing with liquids.
- Spraying a liquid deicer on top of compacted snow or ice can increase the slipperiness of the surface.

<u>After the Event</u>

Learn from each storm. Each event provides an opportunity to evaluate what was done, how well it worked and what could be changed to improve operations. Information exchange is the best way to speed up positive changes in winter maintenance. At the end of each event, post or discuss the results of your operation so the entire crew can be informed. When the entire crew is informed and included, change happens faster. Examples of what to track and discuss include: driver statistics such as route length, the type materials used, the amount of material used, and the recovery time. Other things to consider might be the liquid to granular ratio, the type of plow blade, new road surface or other new equipment and/or procedures being tested.