

## ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SALT DEICERS

Salt does an amazing job melting ice and making our roads safe during the winter months. However, excessive salt usage can have a negative impact as well. The Village works to reduce its salt usage annually to minimize the impact to the environment.

Overuse can:

- Contaminate waterways,
- Kill landscaping,
- Damage uncured concrete, and/or
- Cause illness if ingested by children or pets

Nothing works better at preventing ice buildup than proper snow removal after a storm. Removing the snow from hard surfaces prevents the freeze-thaw cycle that ultimately freezes over. If salting is performed, the best way to apply salt is to do so before the storm. Pre-salting creates a brine, or barrier, that prevents bonding to the pavement and reduces freezing and accumulation. If salt is used, only apply at or below the application rates identified on packaging and sweep up extra salt once things have dried out. The snow is gone and any remaining salt will only hurt the environment.

Consider finding alternative products that are pet friendly. Road salt can cause painful burning and cracked or dried out pads in your pet. Alternative products can even be more effective in lower temperatures. Road salt typically stops working below 15°F. We all need to work together to reduce chloride use which in turn will help protect the environment.