

# Clean Water Tip #8

## Winter Salt Alternatives

Coon Creek, Sand Creek, Pleasure Creek, and Springbrook Creek are polluted with chlorides from winter salt (primarily NaCl-rock salt **which is NOT effective below 15 degrees (F).**)

### Here are ideas to help reduce chloride pollution



1. Treat before a storm to help prevent ice buildup so less de-icer is needed. After storms use as little de-icer as possible.
2. Think "anti-icing." The goal is to just break the bond between ice and pavement so it can be shoveled or plowed.
3. Don't try to melt ALL the ice with product.  
Put it just on the main areas you use or at edge of icy patches.

### Salt Alternatives

Sand - for traction only - safe and effective, but sweep up excess.

Pet-friendly = urea-based - don't overuse. Nitrogen from urea can run off into creeks and ponds and cause summer algae blooms.

Liquid magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride- all 3 work better than regular salt (sodium chloride) in colder temps.

Calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate are very good alternatives but hard to find. *Create demand by asking for them.*

*Do Not apply if:  
ice has already formed,  
in rainy, sleety,  
blowing conditions,  
or, if snowfall is more  
than 1-inch per hour.*

**Products change each year - Some past alternatives:**

**Zero Ice Melt**

**Quik Joe's Ice Melt**

**Ice Away**

**Hydro-melt**

**Too costly? Use Sand - safe for pets and children.**

**Do Not mix sand with salt!**

**Salt will melt sand into the ice, reducing its traction.**

