

# Ice/Snow Removal

Winter brings with it lots of fun outdoor activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of slippery ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often attempt to make the job easier by using various products to melt the snow and ice. Even if the surface you are applying a deicer to is relatively far from a street or creek, much of the product will not soak into the soil because the ground is frozen. However when the ice melts, the salt and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly into nearby water bodies.

## Here are some alternative deicers to try:

- Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause corrosion. CMA is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas but is a little more expensive.
- Another alternative is Safe Step this is safe for children, pets and your lawn. It melts until -10°F and helps to keep ice from refreezing 2 ½ times longer than other deicers. This is available at most hardware stores.
- Bare Ground is a deicer that is a bit more expensive up front but it's a natural and biodegradable product. This product may be more difficult to find, but is available at some hardware stores.



## Not sure how to pick a deicer?

Read the label. Check the ingredients. Magnesium and calcium chloride work better in colder temperatures. Blends typically consist mostly of sodium chloride because it is cheap. Urea may be listed as pet or plant friendly, but is a poor melter.