



KEEP SAFE THIS WINTER SEASON

*and Help
Keep the Town's
Stormwater Clean*



Town of Tewksbury, MA
Department Of Public Works
999 Whipple Road
Tewksbury, MA 01876



For more information visit the Town of Tewksbury's Stormwater website: tewksbury-ma.gov/stormwater or call (978) 640-4440

Tips for De-Icing *at Your Home and/or Business*

As the weather gets colder, salt on our roadways, walkways and driveways help keep us safe but once the salt is washed off it can make its way into nearby wetlands, streams, rivers and groundwater. The salt raises the salinity in soil and water, which makes it harder for plants to absorb nutrients. The salinity also causes great stress on fresh water wildlife. Over time the salt makes its way into our waterways in turn affecting our drinking water supply.

Here are some salt alternatives to consider for your home or business:

- ◆ **Sand** – Mixed with salt to reduce the amount of salt or used by itself for traction
- ◆ **Ashes** – Absorbs moisture before it freezes and increases traction
- ◆ **Kitty Litter** – Absorbs moisture before it freezes and increases traction
- ◆ **Coffee Grounds** – Natural acidity melts ice and increases traction
- ◆ **Pickle Brine** – Lower salt content than road salt but acidity aids in melting ice
- ◆ **Sugar Beet Juice** – Lowers the melting point of ice

Tips for Snow Removal and Salt/Sand Contractors:

- ◆ Calibrate equipment according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- ◆ Buy equipment that can deliver very low rates of granular products.
- ◆ Outfit trucks with ground speed controls so that the application rate changes automatically as the speed changes.
- ◆ Inform your clients about salt alternatives or blends.
- ◆ When cleaning excess salt off of roadway equipment make sure that the wash-water is controlled and does not flow to sensitive areas such as wetlands and waterways.
- ◆ Covered or indoor storage of salt/sand is recommended.
- ◆ Store salt/stand on impervious (waterproof) surfaces.
- ◆ Storage areas floors should be sloped away from doors and entrances.
- ◆ Store salt and sand away from grated catchbasins, rivers, ditches, and wetlands.

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