

## Your City is reducing the use of road salt in winter



Learn what you can do to protect our lakes and rivers



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## Cities collaborate to reduce use of chloride on city streets



The Cities of Centerville, Lino Lakes, Hugo, Circle Pines, Lexington and Columbus are partnering in a so-

dium chloride (road salt) reduction program thanks to a \$65,000 grant from the Rice Creek Watershed District. The funds will be used to integrate deicing practices using a salt brine solution into each city's snow removal operations. The grant will pay for about 40 percent of the cost of the program, with each city picking up its share of the remainder. The program is expected to save the cities

money by reducing the amount of road salt needed each winter by up to 40 percent. This equates to a reduction of approximately 600 tons (1.2 million pounds) of salt that will not enter our ponds and lakes.

Grant funds will be used to purchase anti-icing equipment to apply liquid salt brine in advance of winter storms. Salt brine works faster and at lower temperatures than does dry salt, with less waste. Using less salt saves money and exposes the environment to fewer toxic chemicals. In addition, prewetted salt works under conditions that render dry salt ineffective. Grant funds will also be used to train city staff to use only the minimum amount of salt necessary.

## Salt improves driving conditions but harms ecosystems

Keeping roads and parking areas free of ice and snow is an essential part of modern life. However, road salt—one of the main tools used to achieve this task—contains chloride as its principle ingredient. Chloride does more than melt snow and ice; it negatively impacts local lakes and rivers. Other minor ingredients of commercial road salt include arsenic and cyanide.

As snow and ice melt, they drain into landscaped areas or storm sewers, and then to natural bodies of water. Waters from a deiced area contain high levels of chlorides, which do not degrade, and there is no cost effective way to remove it. Excessive levels of chlorides can severely impair the ability of plants to absorb water and nutrients. Fish and other aquatic organisms are then impacted by the decline in habitat.

In addition to harming the ecosystem, overusing chloride can damage residential grass, gardens and trees, reversing any beautification efforts you have made.



# What can you do to reduce chloride usage?



Many communities are already employing alternative technologies to deice their roads, such as anti-icing, which applies salt brine to roads when a storm is forecasted to prevent the formation of ice. Residents can use a similar treatment method by purchasing an anti-icing alternative to salt available at many grocers and hardware stores. If you must use salt, employ the “just enough” principle, by applying just enough salt to keep your property ice free. Many ice melting products are very damaging to concrete pavements. The amount of damage is usually greater with excessive use.

## Cities find numerous ways to share equipment and services

City officials from the same six cities of Centerville, Hugo, Circle Pines, Columbus, Lexington and Lino Lakes meet regularly to find areas for improved efficiency that can save the taxpayers money. Examples include:

- Several of the cities share equipment back and forth such as street sweepers and sewer jetters, thus saving the cost of each owning their own.
- Those cities that have building inspection staff have signed an agreement to make staff available to each other to avoid anyone having to hire more people unless absolutely needed.
- Lexington signed a joint powers agreement to receive building inspection services from Centerville.
- All of these cities have water system interconnect agreement with at least one of the other cities, where some or all of the water need can be supplied by a neighboring community.
- Several of the cities joined together to purchase gas for their vehicles which resulted in discounts.
- Several of the cities joined to form a regional safety group, thus sharing the cost of safety training of staff.
- These cities have discussed joint operation of utility systems in hopes that will someday be a cost saving measure for the cities.
- Centerville, Circle Pines and Lino Lakes operate Centennial Fire District under a joint powers agreement.
- The Cities of Centerville, Circle Pines and Lexington operate Centennial Lakes Police Department under a joint powers agreement,
- Most of the cities in Anoka County are jointly implementing wellhead protection programs mandated by the Minnesota Department of Health.

## Steps to reduce your use of chloride this winter

- ❄️ **Shovel** (or use a snow blower) before you use any product; never put a deicing product on top of snow
- ❄️ Adopt the **“just enough”** principle, putting down just enough product to keep high traffic areas clear of ice
- ❄️ **Sweep** up undissolved product after a storm is over for reuse
- ❄️ Consider **switching to a non-chloride deicer**
- ❄️ **Support changes** in chloride application in your city
- ❄️ **Inform a neighbor** about the impacts that chlorides have in our streams and rivers

### If you have questions about this program call:

Centerville.....	651-429-3232
Circle Pines.....	763-784-5898
Columbus.....	651-464-3120
Hugo.....	651-762-6300
Lexington.....	763-784-2792
Lino Lakes.....	651-982-2400

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