

# Stormwater Management Device Operations and Maintenance Plan Salt Management Addendum

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## Overview

Salt is a major concern in our Minneapolis waters. Every winter, excess salt runs into our storm drains, permanently polluting our waterways. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, into our lakes, creeks, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. De-icing salt is the #1 source of chloride use in Minnesota. It takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Less is more when it comes to applying salt. At high concentrations, chloride can harm the fish and plant life in our waters. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), 50 water bodies exceed the water quality standard for chloride (230 mg/L) in the Twin Cities metro area. In addition, data show that salt concentrations continue to increase in both surface waters and groundwater across the state.

Chloride is a permanent pollutant and continues to accumulate in the environment over time. The only known method of removing chloride in groundwater and wastewater is through reverse osmosis, which can be a costly and challenging large scale treatment process. Currently, there are no environmentally safe, effective and inexpensive alternatives to salt. Rather, we can reduce salt at the source through application strategies. Smarter application of salt will also save money on labor and products as well as reduce damage to infrastructure, vehicles, plants and water supplies.

The purpose of a Salt Management Plan is to ensure that the impact of salt on stormwater practices is considered at stormwater management sites throughout the City.

## O&M Salt Management Addendum

Beginning January 2022, all properties captured under Chapter 54 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances must develop a Basic Salt Management Plan as part of their overall Operations and Maintenance Plan detailing:

- How you will reduce the impacts of salt on your stormwater practices and to the larger watershed.
- List or description of activities used to perform winter maintenance with less salt.

The following best practices may be used as a guide for creating a site-specific Salt Management Plan

### LIMITING SALT USE

- Shovel and scrape often. The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt is needed and more effective it becomes.
- Select the correct deicer (different deicers work at different temperatures)
- Scatter salt only where critical (aim for 3 inches of space between salt granules)
- Sweep up and reuse leftover salt.

### REVIEW CURRENT PRACTICES

- Provide an annual audit of salting practices.
- Ensure salt is stored and handled properly.

### PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Encourage [MPCA Smart Salting](#) certification.
- Learn more by taking the [Minneapolis Salt Mini Course](#)