

Salt doesn't go away.

The salt that we put in our water softeners and on our roads ends up in **local fresh water bodies**, where it can threaten aquatic life. And once salt is in fresh water bodies, it's extremely difficult and expensive to remove.

We can all do our part to protect water by taking steps to reduce our salt use. If we're successful, we can keep our fresh water healthy while keeping sewer bills low.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's chloride reduction webpage at www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Chloride-Reduction
- You can also email questions to the pollution prevention team at the district, pp@madsewer.org.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

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Reduce salt
use to protect
fresh water



Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Three ways to save on salt

REPLACE OLD WATER SOFTENERS

If you have a time-clock water softener, replace it with a demand-initiated softener if you can. This switch can significantly cut your salt use, saving you time and money while keeping water fresh. Even demand-initiated softeners can lose efficiency with age, so if your softener is older, have it evaluated by a professional and replaced if it has lost efficiency.



TIME-CLOCK

Look for:

- A dial with numbers or names of days of the week with tabs that can be pressed down to set the day of regeneration
- Non-digital controls (usually)

→ **REPLACE** with a demand-initiated softener



DEMAND-INITIATED

Look for:

- Buttons or a dial with settings for capacity or gallons
- Digital controls (usually)
- A label on the control head that says "metered"

→ **OPTIMIZE** to ensure efficient salt use or **REPLACE** if it has lost efficiency



REDUCE WATER SOFTENER SALT USE

Even if you already have a demand-initiated water softener, there are still ways you can reduce salt use at home:

- Make sure that your water softener is programmed to a low salt setting appropriate for the water hardness in your house. Contact a plumber or water softener service provider to evaluate and tune up your softener if necessary.
- Install high-efficiency water fixtures, like low-flow showerheads, to reduce your home's soft water use.
- Have a plumber disconnect water that doesn't need to be soft (like toilets, outdoor hose bibs, and other cold water) from the water softener.



PRACTICE SALT WISE SNOW REMOVAL

Salt used as a de-icer in the winter is often over-applied. Using the right amount of salt can still keep surfaces safe while reducing salt pollution. Follow these steps to use salt wisely in the winter:

1. **Shovel:** Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
2. **Scatter:** If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A coffee mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.
3. **Switch:** When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to a different ice melter or use sand for traction.

Learn more at www.wisaltwise.com.