

# Snow and ice clearing tips

What we put on the ground can be damaging to groundwater. Salt is at the top of the list. To stop salting completely might not be an option but we could all use less.



1

## Clear the snow and ice

- 1a Shovel or plow the snow as soon as you can before it packs down and turns to ice.
  - 1b Break up ice with a steel chopper and then clear away ice with a shovel.
- Sweep away remaining snow before it melts and refreezes as ice.

2

## Protect yourself from icy slip and fall hazards

- 2a Wear a pair of winter boots with good treads.
- 2b Create traction with sand or grit.
- 2c Store unsalted snow where it won't melt on to paved areas.
- 2d Direct downspouts away from paved areas.

3

## Use salt wisely

Do not use salt to melt the snow. Salt is for icy areas only. A few tablespoons for a one-metre square area (about the size of a sidewalk slab) is all you need. Salt works best between 0 and -10 Celsius. When colder, switch to sand for traction. Wait to reapply. Even when you cannot see it anymore, salt is hard at work. Clean up spilled and excess applied salt to save for another time.

## Did you know?

Environmentally friendly ice melters contain salt and are not water friendly. Whether you use salt or ice melter, it is important to clear the snow first and sprinkle on icy areas only.



[www.regionofwaterloo.ca/SnowClearingTips](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/SnowClearingTips)