

# LAKE ERIE STARTS HERE!

## Winter Watershed Protection Tips

In spite of a long and warm Fall, the winter winds are sneaking into Northeast Ohio. Here are a few tips to protect your environment during the coming months.



Road salt (sodium chloride) is most commonly used to remove ice from roads, parking lots and sidewalks. As snow and ice melt, road salt is carried into our lakes, streams and wetlands where just *one teaspoon can permanently pollute five gallons of water.*

Use road salt wisely and keep your pathways safe by shoveling the snow during the storm instead of waiting until the end. The more you remove, the less salt or chemical-deicer you will have to use and the more effective it will be when you do

use it. Adding more won't speed up melting, follow label directions (1 cup per sq. yard) and spread salt a few inches apart for best results. Remember, most salt stops working at or below 15 degrees. An alternative is to use small amounts of sand for traction, but remember, sand doesn't melt and can become a sediment pollutant if it washes into streams or storm drains. Dispose of shoveled snow in vegetated areas and avoid dumping it into streets or streams. Gardens can better absorb snow melt than pavement, so in the next warm up, less polluted stormwater runoff will get into our streams.

*Don't forget your animals!* Cover their feet and/or wash them off after a walk. Contents in road salt can burn their paws.



*Another winter tip:* If you have nuisance wildlife, use non-toxic alternatives instead of chemical pesticides to reduce indoor and outdoor chemical use. Use boric acid, a low-toxicity mineral or bait boxes to keep winter wildlife out of your home versus chemicals that can have negative health impacts on humans, indoor pets and water quality.

To learn more >>>

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