

Community Action Project: Reducing Excessive Road Salt Use in Muskoka



BE SALT- SMART

Why?

- **25%** of recreational lakes tested by the District of Muskoka have chloride levels above what is considered safe for sensitive aquatic life in our soft waters.
- It is not just lakes, rivers, and streams! **Road salt damages** drinking water, trees and plants, infrastructure, vehicles, clothing, pets, and buildings.
- We can make a difference at the source of pollution. Road salt enters our waterways from streets, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots. **You can take action** and learn how to **reduce your personal road salt use**.

For more updates from FOTMW, please contact alesha@fotmw.org or visit fotmw.org to subscribe to our newsletters.



Here is *how* you can make a difference:

Share this with friends and family

- Use **OUR GREEN CUP** (or a small, old coffee mug) to reduce road salt: **12 ounces (350 ml)** for an average driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. **A little goes a long way!**
- For smaller spaces, **1 tablespoon** for 1 sidewalk square. Remember to **give it time** to work!
- Check the temperature first ~ road salt **does not work** when temperatures drop below **-10°C**.
- **Tools first! Shovel** more often. Use an **ice chipper** if necessary and **use sand** for traction.
- Wear proper winter **footwear**, invest in **winter tires**, and reduce driving speed.
- **Store road salt in a water-resistant, closed container** and clean up spilled salt.
- **Save money** by sweeping up and reusing excess road salt.
- **Redirect downspouts** away from walkways and check that the melt path of your snow does not create icy, slipping hazards.
- Learn about the **Smart About Salt Certification** or Landscape Ontario's **Academy of Snow & Ice Control (ASIC)** training for winter maintenance professionals. Help save \$ and use less road salt.



Help protect your watershed forever!

We are a charitable organization. Please support our work
fotmw.org/donate or at Canada Helps



Friends of the
Muskoka
Watershed

Science Driving Solutions