

WHY BE SALT SMART?

Salt is polluting our rivers.

Chloride levels are increasing in our rivers, streams, and groundwater. Once salt gets into the water, it is difficult to remove.



It only takes **one teaspoon of salt** to contaminate **5 gallons of water**.



Where does the salt come from?



Chlorides in our rivers primarily come from **winter road salt**, and also from **water softener salts**.

The Impact of Chlorides



Harms aquatic life

- Chloride can be toxic to small aquatic life and disrupts aquatic community structure and diversity



Is expensive to remove

- Once chloride is in the water, it is very difficult and expensive to remove



Corrodes infrastructure

- Corrodes concrete roads and bridges, as well as our cars and around business entryways



Hurts our pets

- Burns, dries, and cracks our pet's feet
- Causes illness when licked off and ingested

HOW CAN WE BE SALT SMART?



Residents

- Always shovel first.
- Be Salt Smart when salting driveways and sidewalks. Only put salt where needed.
- Scatter salt so it is not clumped together.
- A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk-squares.



Commuters

- Give yourself extra time to drive safely.
- Don't crowd the plow.
- Stay home during snowstorms if possible.

We've created a Story Map exploring road salt runoff in Western New York and the Niagara River/ Lake Erie Watershed



View the Story Map by scanning this QR code:



You can also enter this link into a web browser:

<https://tinyurl.com/roadsaltstory>

Road salt keeps us safe,
but more salt does not equal more safe.

Let's be Salt Smart. Together we can protect our rivers and streams by shoveling snow first and using the right amount of salt.