



## SAFETY ALERT!

A Conference employee was recently injured after a day of shoveling snow and spreading ice melt. While we don't know we'll see more snow and ice this winter, it's always best to be prepared. Following are some ideas to minimize wear and tear from spreading salt.

### Ice Melt Spreaders

There are a number of readily available means to spread salt; pictured below are a few of these. There are others that attach to tractors which are not included here.

	<p>You can take this salt spreader out of its box and start using it immediately, since there's no assembly required. Because this holds only 5,000 square feet of product, it's ideal for smaller areas.</p>	<p>Less than \$40 at Amazon.com and other vendors</p>
	<p>To use this spreader, you simply need to walk where you want the spread to fall, while turning the winding handle. To prevent fatigue, it also comes with a shoulder strap so that carrying it feels like less work.</p>	<p>\$75 at Agri Supply and other vendors</p>
	<p>This feed and salt spreader can tackle about 1.5 acres of land before you need to load it up again. The machinery features a T-handle so that you aren't fighting with it to push it in the direction you want to throw down product.</p>	<p>Around \$200 at Home Depot and other vendors</p>



	<p>When you don't have to cover much ground, sometimes it's best to stick to what you know. There's no need to deal with bulky machinery that's hard to operate with salt spreaders like these. These handheld salt spreaders are quite literally fail-proof and you can get two for \$12.</p>	<p>Fasmov Adjustable Handheld Spreader Salt and Seed Spreader (2 for \$12 on Amazon)</p>
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### Ice Melt

You may think "ice melt is ice melt". There is a variety of ice melt products (see chart, next page). As you'll see, some are more effective, some more environmentally-friendly, etc.

As many churches buy ice melt in 50-lb bags for the sake of economy and efficiency, these 50-lb. bags can be problematic when repeatedly lifting and lowering them while refilling spreaders. Consider placing the bag at waist-height, in your "power zone" (pictured below, left) which will eliminate repeated bending and reduce your risk of injury. Place your ice melt bags on a utility cart, if one is available, and stage this as your "ice melt station", refilling your ice melt spreaders from this location.





Type Characteristic	Rock Salt	Calcium Chloride	Magnesium Chloride	Calcium Magnesium Acetate	Sodium Acetate
Abreviation	NaCl	CaCl <sub>2</sub>	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	CMA	NAAC
Minimum Effective Temperature (Farenheit)	15	-25	-13	15	0
Exothermic	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Contains Chlorine	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Corrosiveness	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
Environmental Friendliess	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Dust Inhibitor	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Residual Effect	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Minimum Effective Temperature = This is the minimum temperature the chemical will work at. Any colder, and the ice melt won't melt the ice.

Exothermic = Some ice melt chemicals produce heat (exothermic) when they come in contact with the ice. Exothermic ice melts work fast, often melting ice twice as fast or more compared to rock salt (using a 20°F temperature for the baseline).

Contains Chlorine = Chlorine tends to be more caustic on concrete than non-chlorine chemicals.

Corrosiveness = This is a relative measure of how much this chemical degrades concrete (creating pitting, spalling, and general degradation of your concrete).

Environmental Friendliness = This is a relative measure of how friendly to the environment the ice melt chemical is.

Dust Inhibitor = Some chemicals are more ideal for dirt or gravel roads. They are "hygroscopic" (they attract moisture from the air) which helps keep dust out of the air. These chemicals also help improve compaction, keeping dirt roads firmer and less prone to degradation.

Residual Effect = Some chemicals like to "stick around." Rock salt will run off with the melted ice to the drain, while others do a better job of staying on the pavement, and therefore will often still be there for the next snow or ice fall. These chemicals are particularly good for pre-treatment and use near entryways.

*The Conference Safety Committee website contains a "Snow/Ice" program template individual churches may customize to their needs. Find it here: [Snow-Ice Treatment Plan](#)*

Stay safe and be well! Spring will soon arrive!