



Rock Salt – The Most Expensive Choice in Ice Melt

Back in the day, rock salt was the “go to” ice melt product. It appears to be an economical solution, but is it really? Consider these things:

1. The quantity needed compared to blends to be effective;
2. The potential property and environmental damage caused by rock salt, often times requiring replacements of pavement surfaces, shrubbery, grates drains, etc.;
3. The environmental impact for soil, water, aquatic life; and
4. Pet safety.

SOIL: Rock salt reduces the availability of water to plants and significantly increases *water stress* in spring and summer. This effect is known as *chemical drought*.

SHRUBBERY: Foliage-splash can burn or kill plants.

METAL: Rock salt accelerates the rusting of metal railings, grates, drains, and door frames as well as underground utility lines if they aren't protected. Vehicles can rust from the bottom undercarriage.

HARDSCAPES: Salt creeps into void spaces in concrete and expands by 10 to 20% when freezing. The expansion fractures the concrete. Porous brick, masonry, and natural stone are especially vulnerable.

FLOORING: Salt cakes and is easily tracked onto flooring. Rock salt degrades wax and finishes, leaving the floor dull, leaving a greasy, white film – and requiring wet cleaning with detergents to remove the residue.

ENVIRONMENT: Salts mingle with the melting water and runs into soil and water ways. The salty brine can leach into the ground and degrade the quality of water (*remember only 2.7% of the earth's water is drinkable.*) Fish and other aquatic life and living organisms can be compromised or killed.

PETS: Rock salt can irritate paw pads. When the pet licks his paws, the salt can cause vomiting and diarrhea.

EFFICACY: Rock salt works slowly, and it is not effective in below 15°F. Additionally, you need 2/3 more rock salt compared to Natural Alternative. Is it really less expensive to use rock salt?



MAGNESIUM COATING: Liquid magnesium is better for concrete and plants; however, it is only effective to the same temperature as rock salt.

And, magnesium is a little better at preventing water from re-freezing but tends to leave a undesirable slush. Do not confuse magnesium with the coating Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) which is used to reduce caking and has a far better grade for being kind to the environment. CMA's are more expensive, but are they?