

COLD WEATHER CARE

..... FOR

CLEAN WATER



**Macatawa Area
Coordinating Council**

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

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STEPS TO PROTECT OUR WATER



We live in a winter wonderland, full of fun snow activities. But all that snow also means shoveling and ice removal to keep our sidewalks, driveways and streets safe. Many times, chemicals are used to help melt ice and keep pavement clear. However, snowmelt can carry those chemicals into the storm drain where they become water pollution.

Reduce salt use. Only use what is necessary for safety in order to reduce stormwater pollution.

Try an alternative. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is a type of deicer that has fewer negative impacts. Others include calcium chloride, potassium chloride and urea. Search online for "alternative deicers" to learn more.

Consider the conditions. Before you apply a deicer, think about the temperature, sun exposure and how much product you really need. Shovel or sweep dry, powdery snow to reduce the need for deicers. Apply deicers to wet, heavy snow when it is falling to prevent it from freezing to the pavement. Apply deicers early for sleet and freezing rain to prevent ice buildup. For large amounts of snow, shovel or snow blow first and use deicers only where needed.