

December 3, 2020

To: Chairmen Weber and Fischer
Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy

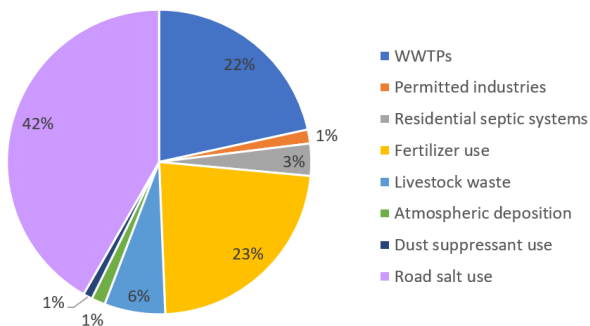
We are members of StopOverSalting, volunteer educators in our communities and advocates for the reduction of chloride use in Minnesota.

Today we draw attention to Minnesota's annual chloride use: 968,000 metric tons.

Heger and Overbo, University of MN

This immense amount of chloride is causing irreversible problems statewide. To name a few - it's toxic to freshwater life, accumulating in our lakes, rivers and wetlands, and prematurely destroying our public and private infrastructure. If a number is helpful, damage per ton of chloride used is estimated at \$800-\$3300. (MCMP)

There is urgency to this issue. Once dissolved in water chloride not feasible to remove. It is permanent. Reducing use at the source as soon is critical.



Chloride Sources Minnesota

Pie Chart (left)

42%

Road salts (purple)

22%

*Discharge from WWTP's (dark blue)
majority water softening*

Over half chloride use annually in Minnesota is from road salts and waste water treatment plant (WWTP) discharge (the majority water softening). (MCMP)

We ask you to pass chloride source reduction legislation in 2021, specifically for road salts and water softeners. Here are three recommendations.

1. Funding for MPCA's Smart Salting Training and Certification.

- Why? This training is hands down the biggest positive Minnesota has going for chloride reduction - 30-70% reductions without compromising public safety. Training addresses over application in our largest chloride source, road salts.
- Please support legislative authority for MPCA to charge a fee and receive general funds for its Smart Salting trainings. The cost of funding this program is small compared to the cost of damages it will prevent.

2. Labeling Requirements for Packaged Deicers.

- Why? Consumers and applicators are being misled. The claims, ingredients and instructions on packages are not regulated or standardized. Manufacturers say what they want. Many times claims are not even true! Packages claim “eco-friendly”, “pet-friendly” or even “salt-free” when the product inside is chloride-based.
- The bigger issue is unregulated packaging is serving as a public disinformation campaign about chloride. SOS meets numerous people - homeowners and professional applicators - who inform themselves about chloride by reading deicer packages.
- Please support development and implementation of standardized labeling requirements for *all* packaged deicing products sold in Minnesota.

3. Water Softener Grant Funds.

- Why? If homeowners and businesses upgrade, optimize or replace their water softeners chloride traveling through our WWTP's will be reduced. Municipalities are well positioned to reach water softener owners, and will benefit from less chloride flowing through their infrastructure.
- Please support grants so local government entities can provide education and rebates to upgrade, optimize or replace old 'automatic' water softeners.

SOS has talked to many citizens who are crest-fallen once they grasp chloride pollution issues and what that means to Minnesota.

Chlorides are accumulating. We urge you to take action this year.

Sincerely,

Sue Nissen, and
The Volunteers of StopOverSalting
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One teaspoon of deicer permanently pollutes five gallons of Minnesota's freshwater

