

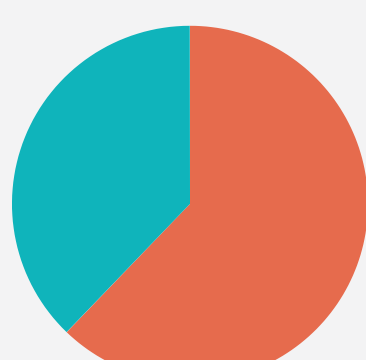
# THE IMPACT OF STREET SALTS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

Street salts cause great harm to the environments where they are commonly used. Here are some things to know and tips for reducing your salt use.

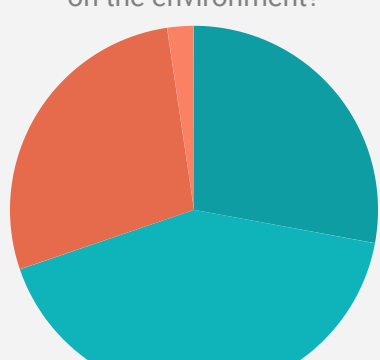
## OUR DATA

We created a survey to gain knowledge about the way the average person uses road salts/sidewalk salts during Minnesota winters. From this data, we took time to research what information was most important for people to know.

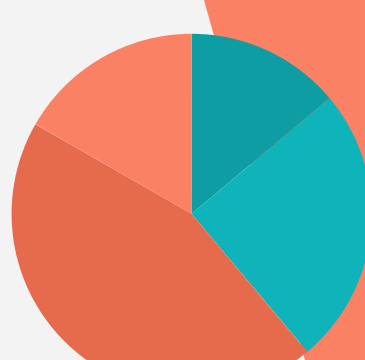
Do you salt your sidewalks in the winter?



Do you have any knowledge of the effects of sidewalk salts and road salts on the environment?



Are you aware of how much road salt the city uses?



## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ROADSALT

**200 million tons** of road salt is used annually in the USA. That's 123 tons per person.



**70% of road salts** applied in the city end up in the watershed, ultimately decreasing the biodiversity in wetland areas.



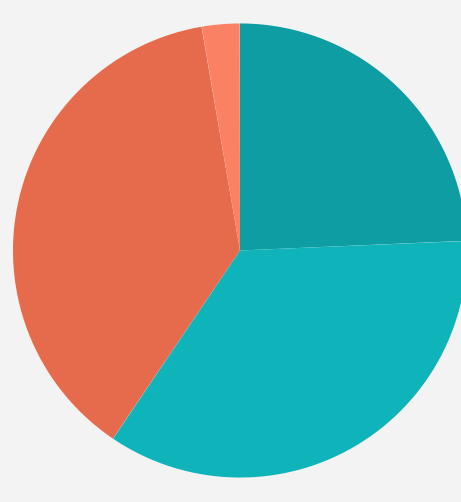
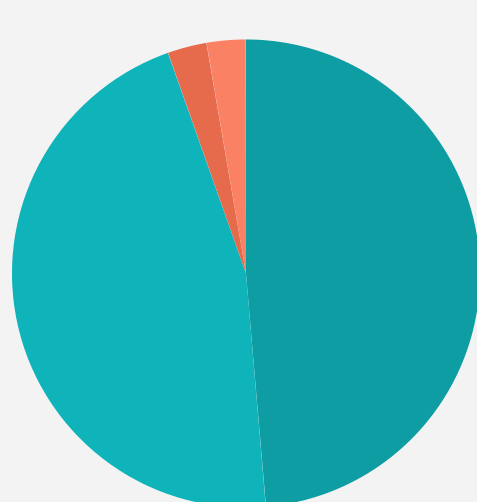
**NaCl, the salt** used on roads, is a registered herbicide due to the negative effect it has on plants.



## The people have spoken... and they are willing to change!

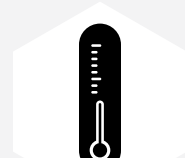
Although the situation looks tough, people are willing to change their habits to better suit the environment. When we asked "Would you be willing to reduce your salt use?" **94%** of people said they would!

**60%** of people said they would be willing to advocate for reduced salt use within the city.



## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ROADSALT

**Under 15 degrees** using salt on your sidewalk is **not** effective, it is too cold for the ice to melt.



**Prior to storm** put down salt or salt water on sidewalks to prevent ice from forming and reduce use.



**Add sand** with your salt to reduce use and add traction for walkers.



## RESOURCES FOR YOU!

Resources on what people are doing to reduce road salt use, and how you can too:

- <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-applicators>
- <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/salt/>

If your interested in learning more about the affects road salt has on the environment:

- <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/salt/>
- <https://www.treehugger.com/de-icing-dilemma-do-streets-need-salt-4862974>
- <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2018/12/11/road-salt-harms-environment/>



### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- [https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Environmental impacts of road salt and other de-icing chemicals](https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Environmental%20impacts%20of%20road%20salt%20and%20other%20de-icing%20chemicals)
- <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-s1-94.pdf>
- <https://www.ecowatch.com/sustainable-alternatives-winter-salts-2656111075.html>
- <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/577283>
- <https://www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/road-salt-problem-solution-and-how-get-there-report>
- <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2018/12/11/road-salt-harms-environment/>
- <https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/25140>
- <https://aashtojournal.org/2021/09/10/minnesota-dot-seeking-to-reduce-winter-road-salt-use/>