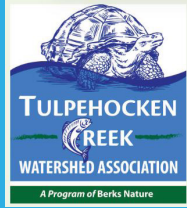


SAVE OUR STREAMS FROM ROAD SALT



A problem across the world

- An invisible freshwater pollutant – salt – has increased at least 2-4 times in the last 50 years in many places
- Road salt use has more than doubled since the 1970s, and is the main cause of the salt increase in our region
- Road salt dissolves in water and enters streams quickly via runoff from roads and parking lots, and slowly enters into the soil and groundwater
- Even though the problem is getting worse, solutions need to be balanced with safety and economic concerns

Why is salt a problem?

- Salt can be harmful to aquatic animals and plants. Some streams exceed the federal standard for long-term exposure designed to protect aquatic life most days of the year
- High levels of road salt during winter storms have exceeded the federal standard for short-term exposure designed to protect aquatic life (about 1 tsp of salt per gallon)
- Road salt speeds up rusting of metal and corrosion of concrete. It has been shown to cause millions of dollars in damage to infrastructure and personal property



Salt is a problem in Tulpehocken Creek Watershed

- In Tulpehocken Creek after a snowstorm, salt levels are increasing the base level
- Chronic salt accumulation is reaching a level that is harmful for stream wildlife



The amount of salt in Tulpehocken Creek is rising

Prevention is more effective and less costly than correction. Working together we can keep our community safe AND protect our environment.

What can we do to help?

Homeowners and residents

- **Shovel First:** Shovel before you salt and right after it snows to reduce the need for salt
- **Reduce and Reuse:** Use just enough salt to melt ice (One 12oz cup of salt per 20ft of driveway or 10 sidewalk squares). After snow melts, sweep up and reuse the salt that remains
- **Consider:** sand or crushed limestone instead of salt or a 1:1 sand/crushed limestone to road salt mixture
- **Read the Label:** Don't use products containing urea, kitty litter, or ashes
- **Speak Up:** Educate your neighbors! If you see an unprotected salt pile or excessive salt use contact your township

Considerations for municipal and private property owners

- Adopt more efficient mechanical snow/ice removal methods such as live edge plows
- Apply pre-storm salt brine to reduce use of rock salt
- Improve efficiency of salt application and storage to reduce waste. Sweep up salt after use
- Adjust brine and salt applications to match snow/ice expectations and traffic volume