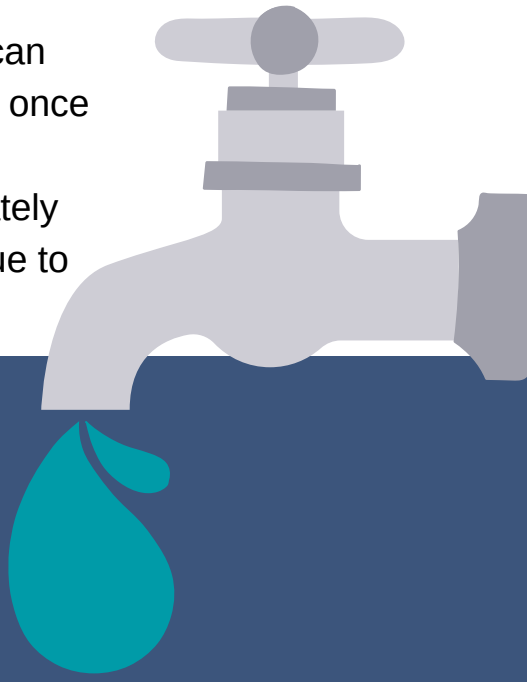
Chloride and Infrastructure

Each year, between 10-20 million tons of road salt are applied to roadways in the United States, depending on the winter weather conditions. The immediate cost of road salt is low, about $75/ton of sodium chloride, but there are long-term and indirect costs associated with the damage it causes.

INDIRECT COST OF ROAD SALT POLLUTION

Chloride, found in most road salt, is incredibly corrosive and can damage roadways, bridges, vehicles, and other infrastructure once applied. Indirect costs of road salt in the United States are estimated to be between $16-19 billion each year. Approximately 15% of bridges throughout the US are structurally deficient due to corrosion, which is exacerbated by road salt exposure.



HEALTH CONCERNS

Chloride is known to mobilize heavy metals and is incredibly corrosive to our waterpipes as well. Homes and businesses with lead and copper pipes have an increased risk of lead corroding into tap water when elevated levels of chloride are present.

WHAT TO DO

SHOVEL

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice.

SCATTER

A 12 oz mug holds enough salt to treat a 20' driveway or 10 sidewalk squares!

SWEEP

Sweep up excess salt and reuse it!

JOIN SALT WATCH

Want to find out how much chloride is in local waterways?
Visit **saltwatch.org** to request your free Salt Watch Kit!

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