

What is chloride pollution?

Road salt (sodium chloride) keeps us safe on roads and sidewalks, but too much can pose a threat to fish and wildlife as well as human health. Fish and bugs that live in freshwater streams can't survive in extra salty water. Many of us also depend on local streams for drinking water. Water treatment plants are not equipped to filter out the extra salt, so it can end up in your tap water and even corrode your pipes, potentially causing serious health concerns.

Join the Salt Watch

- 1 Request your *free* kit at www.SaltWatch.org
- 2 Collect 4 chloride readings at your chosen stream site
- 3 Upload a photo of your test strip to our database
- 4 Share your findings with your community!



Reporting Illicit Discharge

To report illegal spills, dumping, connections, or local emergencies related to the storm drain system or the sanitary sewer system, please contact one of the numbers listed below.

- **During Business Hours:** Illicit Discharge Hotline (240-805-1355) publicworks@gaithersburgmd.gov
- **After Business Hours:** Gaithersburg Police Department (301-258-6400)
- **Emergency Spills:** Call 911
- **Water or Sewer Line Breaks:** (301-206-4002) www.WSSCWater.com
- **Spills in Montgomery County Information:** Call 311 www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/contact.html

Where to report Salt spills:

- City of Gaithersburg: snow@gaithersburgmd.gov or leave a message at 301-258-6370.
- County Streets – Call 311
- State Roads – Call 1-800-543-2515

Learn more about snow removal in Gaithersburg at

www.gburg.md/snow



Gaithersburg



SaltWatch.org

What is road salt?

Road salt – sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, or calcium chloride. Can be applied in rock salt form, in brine (mixture of salt and water), or with sand to treat roads during winter weather.

Salt is used to lower the freezing point of water and is applied to keep our roads and sidewalks from icing during the winter. Following best practices for salt application helps keep us safe during inclement weather. However, more salt does not equal more effectiveness. Too much salt use can cause water pollution that is harmful to our streams and our health.

What is Salt Watch?

A national community science program that;

- Provides **free** water testing kits to identify chloride pollution in streams
- Compiles volunteer data from 22 states
- Educates the public on responsible salt application
- Provides tools on how to advocate for smart salting

Request a free Salt Watch Kit!



[SaltWatch.org](https://saltwatch.org)

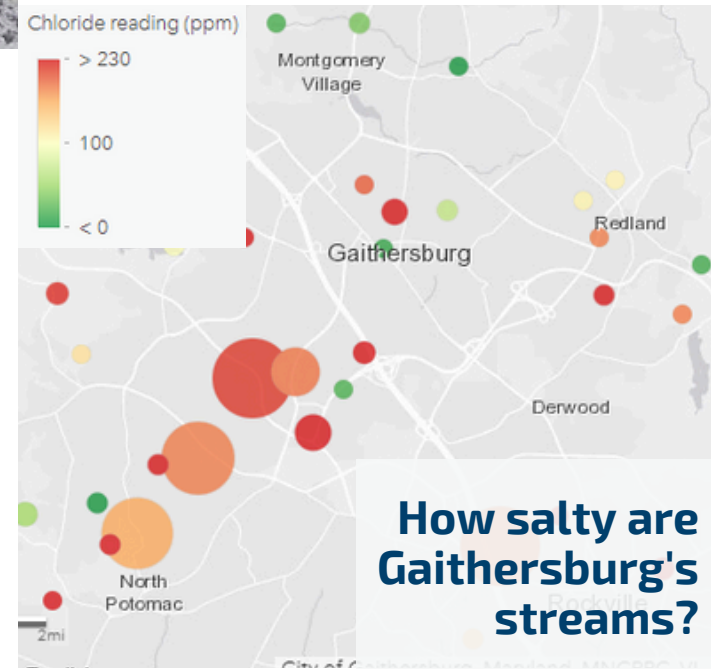


What can you do about Salt Pollution?

- Use smart salting practices at home - a standard 12 oz mug of salt is enough for a 20-foot driveway
- Collect data to help identify where chloride pollution is an issue
- Spread the word to your neighbors and friends
- Talk to your local businesses and representatives about reducing salt pollution in Gaithersburg

How the City of Gaithersburg Snow Removal Team Reduces Salt:

- » Preventing Ice Pack with Brine Layer Pretreatments before the Storm
- » Calibrating Tailgate Spreader's Electronic Speed Controls in all 10 Ton and 1 Ton Dump Trucks
- » Conducting Staff Training Days, including a Friendly Snow Road-eo Competition
- » Storing All Loaded Trucks Under Cover
- » Washing and Cleaning All Snow Equipment Indoors to Prevent Site Runoff



How salty are Gaithersburg's streams?