

Sidewalk Salt – What’s the difference?



With several weeks of winter left you may still need to use sidewalk salt to keep your sidewalk or driveway free of ice.

Common types of sidewalk salts:

Sodium chloride	Commonly known as rock salt, is the most frequently used type of salt, probably because of how inexpensive it is. Working in temperatures as low as 20 degrees, this isn't the most effective and it's known to leave a white power behind.
Calcium chloride	Probably the most effective salt-based product, because it works up to -25 degrees. Be careful when using calcium chloride. It's known to cause harm to plants and grass and sometimes it even damages concrete if used excessively.
Potassium chloride	Has been thought to be the safer chloride-based choice, working in temperatures as low as 12 degrees. This product does not work as well as other melting products, yet it is chosen more frequently because it doesn't harm vegetation.

If you suspect a poisoning, don't take a chance. Call 1-800-222-1222

Is it safe?



- There isn't a fully "safe" choice for a road salt (de-icing agent)
- All salts are harmful if swallowed and can cause skin irritation
- Read the label
- Follow the manufacturer directions when using these types of products

Recommendation: Try mixing salt with some sand to decrease the amount of salt you're using this winter. Although sand won't melt ice like salt does, the combination will help increase traction.

Please call the Wisconsin Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) if you think someone may have put any of these products in their mouth or if you have any questions.

**Wisconsin
Poison Center**

Serving people of all ages.