



# CAC NORTH SALEM CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSERVATION NEWS

VOLUME 1 / MARCH 2021



Ola Dusegard/Getty Images



*The best deicer is the non-chemical backbreaking solution... the snow shovel. Proper use of a chemical deicer can ease your battle with snow and ice. Use the minimum amount of product needed to loosen the snow or ice and then remove it with a shovel or plow, no need to cover the surface with deicer and melt all the snow or ice. Here's a summary of common deicers:*

**-Sodium chloride (rock salt or halite)**

Inexpensive and helps keep moisture from accumulating on roads and walkways, but it is not an effective deicer at temperatures below 15°F, damages concrete, poisons the soil, and can kill plants, harm pets.

**-Calcium chloride**

Works at low temperatures and isn't as damaging to the soil and vegetation as sodium chloride, though it costs a bit more and may damage concrete. Attracts moisture, it won't keep surfaces dry.

**-Safe Paw**

An ammonia/carbon dioxide, urea (not urine) contains nitrogen rather than salt. Safer for plants and pets than salt-based deicers, more expensive than salt.

**-Potassium chloride**

Doesn't work at temps below 25°F and may cost a little more than sodium chloride, but it is relatively kind to vegetation and concrete.

## Household Products That Work

In a pinch, you can use common household products as de-icing agents. Any product that contains salt or sugar will work:

- liquid from a pickle jar
- sugary soft drinks
- homemade solution of salt or sugar in water

### And Don't Forget: Sand or Wood Ash

### If you just need traction!

Helmenstine, Anne Marie, Ph.D. "What Is the Best Deicer? Chemical De-Icing Solutions." ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-the-best-deicer-3976106>

*The CAC is a  
Committee of the  
Town of North  
Salem, Members:*

Nancy Welo, Co-Chair  
Pam Pooley, Co-Chair  
Holly Thomson  
Melissa Sultana  
Stephen Rankel  
Virginia Connolly  
Andrea Good

[HTTPS://WWW.NORTHSALEMNY.ORG/  
CONSERVATION-ADVISORY-COUNCIL](https://www.northsalemnyny.org/conservation-advisory-council)