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TURF TIP TIME #7 with the NJTA:
Salt to Keep Your Winter Walkway From
Becoming a Slippery Slope of Lawsuits

For many facility managers, wintertime evokes thoughts of freezing weather, icy parking lots, snowy sidewalks, slip-and-falls, injuries, and finally costly lawsuits. As you work to take the proper precautions, remember these helpful ice melt tips.

First, be sure to select the best product for your property. "It is important to remember that different ice melt compounds are only effective down to specific temperatures," said Tim Fegley of Kissner Milling Company Limited. Rock salt works down to 5°F and helps provide instant traction on snow and ice. Calcium chloride, found in most ice melt chemical blends, is fast, long-lasting, and melts to -15°F.

Once you have chosen and received your product, treat surfaces in the calm before the storm. Tim Fegley explains that applying salt to your parking lots and sidewalks in advance will prevent snow from freezing to those surfaces. "Pre-treating allows the salt to form a layer of brine, which breaks the bond between the ice and pavement." This makes it unmeasurably easier to shovel or plow after the snow event.

For best results, use a mechanical spreader for accurate coverage. "Using a push type or handheld spreader will help you apply salt and ice melts evenly and avoid piling," said Fegley. He suggests that you shovel off excess slush/water and then reapply to any areas with heavy ice.



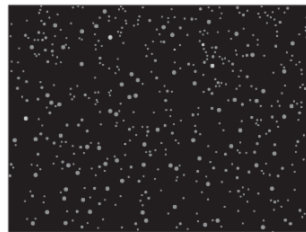
Too Little



Just the Right Amount



Too Much



Way Too Much

That being said, do not overspread. Using too much product can damage surfaces and harm the environment, not to mention put an unnecessarily large dent in your budget. "Contrary to popular opinion," Fegley says, "using large amounts of ice melt does not affect the speed with which ice and snow melts." The proper coverage rate is about one cup per square yard.

Last, but not least, to prevent snow from becoming hard-packed, continue to disperse ice melt throughout each storm.

"When used correctly, ice melt can be a very powerful tool during the winter months," said Fegley. Whether you are a maintenance worker at a school, golf course, or corporate building, keep your winter wonderland walkways from becoming slippery slopes of lawsuits by properly utilizing rock salt and ice melts.



**NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By:
Tim Fegley**

Tim Fegley is an account manager at [Kissner Milling Company Ltd.](#) North America's leading ice melt manufacturer and distributor for over 130 years, Kissner supplies a wide range of high-quality products and expertise. With about two decades of experience in ice melt retail, Tim is highly regarded as an industry expert.

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