

# How Much Salt Will Be Needed This Winter?

Plan your salt program early.

Estimating future salt requirements is tough. Few public works officials ever hit the figure right on the nose. Here are a few guidelines for estimating future salt needs:

1. Never reduce last winter's figure because you hope next winter will be milder.
2. Be sure to take into account new mileage added to your road or street system. Don't overlook new subdivision streets. Interstate or express highways and routes acquired from other political subdivisions.
3. Improve winter maintenance operations. Going to straight salt or adding more salt routes can substantially influence salt requirements while providing a higher level of service.

In anticipating needs, make realistic estimates based on average needs over the previous five-year period.

Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of unseasonably cold temperatures, blizzard conditions, prolonged cold spells and unusually large amounts of snow. All of these conditions, often unpredictable, can affect your use of salt.

Salt should be ordered by mid-summer for summer and fall delivery. Then there is assurance of getting the material well ahead of winter. The demand for deicing salt places great pressures on the shipping and hauling interests that deliver salt from production point to users. Transport problems grow more complicated once winter begins and the demand for salt increases.

Early ordering and stockpiling of deicing salt assures a ready supply, with the material delivered during good weather. When bids are placed early, the supplier has ample time to find and prepare a suitable stock point in the area. Salt cannot be transported by barge once waterways are frozen-another reason to advise your supplier of needs early.

Remember that your contractual requirements may slow the purchasing process. Often, a waiting period is required between the time bid notices are advertised and a supplier is selected.

The above information was reprinted from *The Salt Storage Handbook*, a Salt Institute Publication.



Use the chart below to figure approximate salt needs for your area.

TABLE 1: Tons/Metric Tons of Salt Required per Season -- Based on 4 applications per storm per two-lane mile/kilometer

		Two Lane Highway on Bare Pavement						
Number of Storms	Miles.... km.....	100	200	300	400	500	600	700
		160.9	321.8	482.7	643.6	804.5	965.4	1126.3
4		400 362.9	800 725.8	1200 108.6	1600 1451.5	2000 1814.4	2400 2177.3	2800 2540.2
6		600 544.3	1200 1088.6	1800 1633.0	2400 2177.3	3000 2721.6	3600 3265.9	4200 3810.2
8		800 725.8	1600 1451.5	2400 2177.3	3200 2903.0	4000 3628.8	4800 4354.6	5600 5080.3
10		1000 907.2	2000 1814.4	3000 2721.6	4000 3628.8	5000 4536.0	6000 5443.2	7000 6350.4
12		1200 1088.6	2400 2177.3	3600 3265.9	4800 4354.6	6000 5443.2	7200 6531.8	8400 7620.5
14		1400 1270.1	2800 2540.2	4200 3810.2	5600 5080.3	7000 6350.4	8400 7620.5	9200 8346.2
16		1600 1451.5	3200 2903.0	4800 4354.6	6400 5806.1	8000 7257.6	9600 8709.1	10200 9253.4
18		1800 1633.0	3600 3265.9	5400 4898.9	7200 6531.8	9000 8164.8	10800 9797.8	11600 10523.5
20		2000 1814.4	4000 3628.8	6000 5443.2	8000 7257.6	10000 9072.0	12000 10886.4	14000 12700.8

Note: minimum storage requirement is usually half of annual salt use.