

Public invited to learn more about correct de-icing of sidewalks and driveways



Have you ever considered how chemically removing snow and ice on your sidewalks and driveways affects water quality come springtime? Most people don't draw the connection, but it's definitely an important one. Many don't realize that using salt has many negative consequences and isn't a good environmental option. In fact, each teaspoon of salt put on your sidewalk pollutes about 5 gallons of water in your nearest lake, pond or river.

Join us for a free workshop to address snow and ice removal, along with environment-friendly tips, will be offered from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Parkview Room at the Prior Lake City Hall, 4646 Dakota St SE.

With information geared toward homeowners in residential areas, Connie Fortin of Fortin Consulting of Hamel, Minnesota, will be the speaker. She will talk about how to choose the proper de-icer and use the proper amount along with a variety of options for handling snow and ice this winter. High concentrations of sidewalk salt (sodium chloride) in our water negatively affect wildlife habitat and water quality, including the water we drink.

Check out some of the snow season tips that will be covered:

- Using shovels, snow blowers, ice scrapers and plows to remove snow and ice.
- Using de-icers sparingly.
- Sidewalk salt limitations based on temperature.
- How much salt is enough and what do the active ingredients mean?
- Treating pavement before a snowfall with a liquid de-icer.

You may register for this workshop by calling the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District in Jordan, (952) 492-5425 or sending an email with the names and addresses of those attending to dhrabe@co.scott.mn.us. The registration deadline is Wednesday, November 28. However, walk-ins are also welcome.

For those who do professional winter maintenance, you can view the training schedule at www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/roadsalt.html.

For more information about this topic, contact the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425