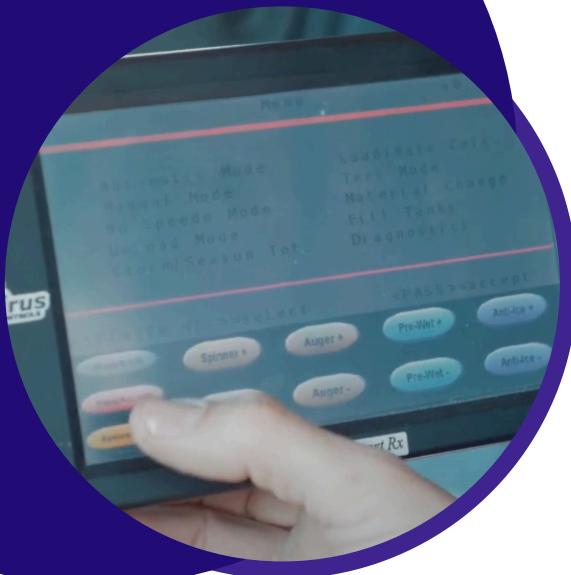


SUSTAINABLE ROAD SALTING PRACTICES

ADJUSTING SALT USED

Adjusting the amount of salt or pre-wet salt based on conditions is an important tool for snow fighters. They can use an online calculator, air-ground temperature sensors, and weather forecasts to inform their decisions.



BENEFITS

- Adjusting salt application based on conditions can help reduce salt use. For example, if pavement temperature is 35F, and the day will be dry and sunny, no salt is needed in the morning, but it may still be needed in the evening. Eliminating one salt run would half the amount of salt used that day.
- Reducing salt use saves costs, and reduces impacts to soils, local water bodies, and nearby vegetation.

CONSIDERATIONS

- This [online calculator](#) allows snow fighters to input conditions, surface type, and product to learn how much salt is recommended. The maximum recommended is 350 lbs/lane mile. Many places use 450 to 600 lbs/lane mile. Following these guidelines can reduce salt use by nearly half.
- For more salt savings, snow fighters can learn from communities that use only 150 to 200 lbs/lane mile.

CHALLENGES

- Snow fighters need to be given the authority to decide when to salt or not. In some communities, municipal leaders mandate salting to occur no matter if it is needed or not.
- Similarly, for commercial salt applicators, some contracts require over salting due to liability concerns.
- Public perceptions and requests often drive actions snow fighters' actions. The public needs to understand that using less salt will keep people safe and using more harms budgets, the environment, and infrastructure.

COSTS

There are no additional costs as most communities and businesses use equipment with adjustable salt distribution rates.

October 2025



LOCATIONS

The following communities use 200 lbs/lane mile or less or they use the LCSV online calculator to inform salting rates:

- Charlotte, VT
- Peru, NY
- South Burlington, VT
- Williston, VT

Does your community spread at a rate of 200 lbs/lane mile or less or use the online calculator to inform your snow and ice management practices, and do you operate within the Lake Champlain Basin of New York or in Vermont? Let us know and we can list your community or business here too!



Development of this information sheet was supported in part using Federal funds under NA24OARX417C0145 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Sea Grant College Program, and U.S. Department of Commerce. This research was also supported in part using funds from the University of Vermont Extension. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Sea Grant, NOAA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, or UVM Extension.