

Let's Keep **Road Salt Out of** Drinking Water Sources

We all want clean, safe water for our future. Protecting our drinking water sources is the first step.

Our drinking water comes from water under the ground, called groundwater, or from water in lakes and rivers, called surface water.

In our climate road salt is used to keep our roads, walkways and parking lots, safe and passable.

Even though it helps to keep us safe, road salt can get into our drinking water sources and contaminate them. Not only can surface water and groundwater be impacted by road salt, but also vegetation, aquatic life, wildlife, and soils. Cars, concrete, clothing and footwear can be damaged too.

What can you do?

- ◆ Choose a 'green' de-icing product or use sand or kitty litter on slippery areas.
- ◆ Use de-icing materials in the amounts and as directed on the package.
- ◆ Redirect downspouts away from walkways and driveways to prevent ice buildup.
- ◆ Do not apply road salt when the temperature falls below -10 Celsius (14 Fahrenheit) as no melting will occur.
- ◆ Make time to shovel. Shoveling can be good exercise when done properly.
- ◆ Wear footwear designed for snow and ice to help prevent slips and falls.
- ◆ Put snow tires on your car.
- ◆ Give yourself extra time in the winter and help prevent slips, falls and car accidents.

Why Protect Sources of Drinking Water?

- ◆ to protect public health
- ◆ to avoid the cost and need to clean up contaminated water
- ◆ to reduce the cost of water treatment
- ◆ to eliminate the need to search for new drinking water sources when existing ones become contaminated or depleted
- ◆ to ensure a long-term supply of clean water
- ◆ to ensure an adequate water supply for economic growth

Quinte Conservation,
2061 Old Highway 2,
R R 2, Belleville, ON
K8N 4Z2
613-968-3434 or
613-354-3312
info@quinteconservation.ca
QuinteSourceWater.ca



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How is road salt a threat to drinking water sources in the Quinte Region?

The application, handling and storage of road salt are considered drinking water threats under Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Road salting activities do not commonly occur near municipal drinking water sources in the Quinte Region. However, where this is a concern, municipalities and the Ministry of Transportation are now required to implement policies from the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan designed to protect the water source.

The majority of road salt is used as a de-icer or an ice prevention agent. The most commonly used products are sodium chloride and calcium chloride because they are effective, inexpensive, readily available, and easy to use.

The main reason road salt is considered a threat is due to the potential of these products to run off the roads and enter sources of drinking water (both ground and surface water).

How is the threat from road salt being addressed?

Six policies in the Source Protection Plan address the threat to our drinking water sources from road salt. Policies cover both existing and future activities related to road salt application, and its handling and storage. The purpose of the policies is to make sure that road salt does not negatively impact our municipal drinking water quality.

For more information visit QuinteSourceWater.ca and click on:

- ◆ 'Protecting Water' and then 'Drinking Water Threats' or
- ◆ 'Approved Source Protection Plan'



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Approved Quinte Region Source Protection Plan

The Quinte Region Source Protection Plan contains policies designed to help keep road salt and other pollutants out of our drinking water sources. For more:

QuinteSourceWater.ca