



## EcoNugget

### Managing Winter Ice The Good & Bad about Ice Melt Products

#### Best Ice Melt Options for the environment:

- **Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)** prevents ice from bonding to surfaces rather than aggressively melting it. Non-corrosive, biodegradable, and safe for vegetation.
- **Magnesium Chloride** - Less harmful than rock salt. Effective to -10C. Gentle on paws. Works fast.
- **Sand or Grit** - Adds traction without chemicals but does not melt ice and requires cleanup.

#### Products to Avoid:

- **Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt)** - Highly damaging to plants, soil health, concrete, and metal. Harmful to pets and wildlife. Contributes to chloride pollution of waterways.
- **Urea-Based Ice Melts** - Poor performance in cold temperatures. Can damage plant roots. Promotes algae blooms in waterways.

To learn more about ice melt products, when and how to apply:

<https://gardenartisans.com/how-ice-melt-products-damage-your-landscape-and-how-to-choose-safer-options/>