**Practice SMART salting this winter to protect our water**

Road salt helps to melt ice but it also pollutes our lakes, streams and groundwater. In Minnesota, 50 lakes and streams have already been contaminated by too much salt and another 120 are near the threshold for impairment. 30% of shallow wells in the Twin Cities metro have elevated levels of chloride.

Here’s what you can do this winter:

**1. Shovel:** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you’ll need.

**2. Scatter:** Use salt only where it’s critical. When you apply salt to pavement, leave plenty of space between granules. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.

**3. Select:** Salt doesn’t melt ice if the pavement is below 15°F, so use sand for traction when it’s too cold, or choose a different de-icer.

**4. Sweep:** Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

**5. Slow down:** Drive slower when roads are icy or snow-covered, and wear your winter boots when you’re walking or running errands.