

SALT AND DEICER COMPARISON

Melting Agent	Lowest Melting Temp.*	Things to Know
Urea	20°F	Promotes algae growth in waterways; over-application can harm plants; relatively pet-safe; slow-acting
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	15°F	Harmful to plants; harmful to concrete; very corrosive to metal; cheap and abundant
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl ₂)	-10°F	Harmful to plants; corrosive to metal; relatively high cost
Potassium Acetate	-15°F	Can cause surface slickness; lowers oxygen levels in waterways; biodegradable; relatively high-cost
Calcium Chloride (CaCl ₂)	-20°F	Corrosive to metal; leaves slimy residue; less harmful to concrete
Sand	No Melting	Provides traction only; potential pollutant; can be swept up and reused

* Refers to pavement temperatures.