



Keep it  
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## Alternatives to Rock Salt

Contents	Works Down to (temp.)	Environmental Impacts**
Sodium Chloride (NaCl) Rock Salt	-10°C	Contains Cyanide, Impacts from Chlorides
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	-3° C to -5°C	Less toxic than salt if used sparingly
Potassium Acetate (KAc)	-30°C to -60°C	Less toxic than salt but lowers oxygen levels in water
Calcium Chloride	-31°C	Lower rate of application, no cyanide, impacts from chlorides
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl)	-15°C	No cyanide, chloride impacts
Potassium Chloride (KCl)	-11°C	No cyanide, higher chloride impacts, higher rate of application
Urea	-4°C to -7°C	Less corrosive, adds needless nutrients – harmful to plants and waterbodies
Sand	Minimal effect on melting	Improves traction, accumulates in streams and streets
Volcanic Ash (EcoTraction)	Minimal effect on melting	Better traction than sand, safe for people, pets, plants, natural fertilizer and filter
Wood Ash	Minimal effect on melting	Inexpensive, improves traction
Cat Litter	Minimal effect on melting	Improves traction, expensive

Table adapted from Scugog Connections – Durham Sustainability

\*\*Cyanide can kill pets. Chlorides impact surface water quality. Salt can kill plant life and damage walkways and structures

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