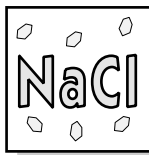


**Penn State Pointers ► Alternatives for Ice Melters**

**Materials used to melt ice and snow often damage lawns, shrubs, and plants if they are not applied properly.**



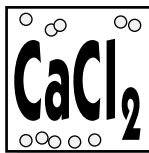
- **Unrefined Rock Salt**  
**Sodium chloride**

Rock salt can easily damage plants. The maximum safe application rate is one-half pound of salt per square yard **per season**.



- **Urea (Fertilizer)**  
**Nitrogen**

The application rate is 10 pounds per 100 square feet. It melts ice at temperatures as low as 11°F, but works best applied at 25-30°F.



- **Calcium Chloride...**

is a more effective ice melter than urea, but runoff can harm plants. Mixing one part calcium chloride to three parts sawdust helps control runoff.



- **Gravel, Sand, Sawdust...**

can be applied for traction only, or combined with urea or calcium chloride to help decrease chemical runoff rates. Some other options are ashes, wood chips, and cat litter.

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**For Possible Winter/December Timeframe**