



## Adequate and Environmentally Safe Storage Facilities

The percentage of salt that an agency can store in relation to its seasonal usage is crucial to being successful in winter operations. Agencies that store less than 100% of their seasonal average will depend heavily on delivery to ensure they have the material they need throughout the winter season. Delivery of goods during winter can be hampered in a number of ways and in extreme conditions may cease altogether.

Agencies that can store 100% or more of their seasonal needs have more flexibility and are less likely to be impacted by delays in delivery. Despite having adequate storage for 100% or more of their seasonal needs, agencies still may encounter problems if the stored material is not distributed appropriately across the State. Having adequate storage means having enough salt for an entire season, for every location throughout the state.

Having the appropriate amount of salt is extremely important, but that material must be stored properly as well. Salt can be stored in a variety of ways, but **best practice** is to store salt on an impervious pad and ensure that the salt is covered. Salt that is not stored properly will lead to environmental issues and will not benefit the agency or its customers. The **best environmental practice** is to have salt stored inside a facility with a door where weather can not affect it in any way. If possible, it is better to load the facility using a conveyor system so it can be completely full and to avoid contaminants and lumps from being stockpiled. It is also beneficial if the door can face away from the predominate wind direction. Any runoff from the facility should be contained to avoid any negative environmental impacts as well.



State Agencies should have at a minimum 100% of their seasonal needs stored prior to each winter season.

The more salt an agency has on hand the less it depends on delivery systems throughout the winter season.

Storing this salt properly is critical. Good practice here requires the salt is under cover and must be on an impermeable pad. Runoff must be contained.

Facilities should be sited using the S.A.L.T.E.D guidelines (from the Salt Institute Safe and Sustainable Salt Storage Handbook, available in the Resources section of the web site).

<b>S</b>	<b>SAFETY</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>LEGALITY</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>TIDINESS</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>ECONOMICS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>DRAINAGE</b>

**The numbers:** Agencies with adequate storage are less likely to face shortages and less likely to be impacted by delivery issues. Salt should be stored properly on an impervious pad in a facility. If that is not possible the stockpile should be completely covered to reduce any environmental impact and avoid wasting material.

**The Alternatives:** Implement a long-term plan to increase storage. Determine if the salt being stored is placed in the proper locations to serve the needs of the state.

**The needs:** environmental concerns grow stronger each year. It is vital that agencies that use salt store the salt properly. All runoff must be contained at the facility. Agencies that have less than 100% of their seasonal needs should look to increase their storage in order to meet that goal.

**The future:** Salt use has seen a steady increase since the 1960s and has hit its highest points during the extreme winters in the past few years. Extreme winter events and changing weather patterns have affected much of the U.S. during the last decade and have resulted in local and temporary material shortages. Agencies need to ensure that they have enough material for their operations and that that salt is stored properly.

