

# MAKE YOUR OWN SALT BRINE

Salt Brine is a liquid that prevents snow and ice from freezing to hard surfaces, making it easier to shovel or plow. It is a low cost and more environmentally friendly alternative to solid salt. Salt brine uses less salt and works better than solid salt in most situations.

## STEP 1: PREP

Measure out 1 gallon of warm water in a bucket, cooking pot, or pump sprayer container. Measure out 2.3 pounds of clean rock salt (Sodium Chloride, the same material as table salt). Warm water is ideal to dissolve salt.

Examples:

For a one gallon pump sprayer:

**1 gallon of water and 2.3 pounds of salt.**

For a four gallon pump sprayer:

**4 gallons of water and 9.2 pounds of salt.**



## STEP 2: MIX

Add the salt to the water and stir the solution with a wooden spoon or spatula until the salt is fully dissolved. You can use a hand drill and a paint mixer if you want to make it dissolve faster. Use safety glasses while mixing. If the salt has dirt or rocks mix it in a bucket before pouring the liquid into a pump sprayer.

## STEP 3: SPRAY

Apply the liquid brine on paved surfaces using a portable pump sprayer, which are available at home improvement stores. Spray lines on the pavement about 6 inches apart to pre-wet the surface BEFORE expected precipitation. This will prevent snow and ice from sticking so it can be shoveled or plowed away cleanly.

## THINGS TO NOTE:

Brine is best for snow and ice but if a storm is forecast to start with rain, the rain may wash the salt brine away before it can be effective. In extremely cold temperatures below 10°F liquid brine could freeze and may not be prudent to apply. During a snowstorm, shovel or plow the surface as clear as possible and then reapply the brine right after. Only use as much brine as needed to make separate lines or thinly cover the paved surface. Overapplication does not boost effectiveness and adds harmful salt into the environment.



Scan QR code for more information.  
[mass.gov/info-details/dcr-watershed-system-salt-reduction](https://mass.gov/info-details/dcr-watershed-system-salt-reduction)

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