

## **Considerations for Using Salt Brines**



Snow removal is the bane of every North American. It sometimes feels as if it will never end. So, it should be no surprise to realize snow removal techniques have evolved. At one time, snow shovels were the only tool in the toolbox. However, as science became more involved, the use of salt and sand became commonplace. Now, the relied upon solution is a brine solution. It allows snow and ice to melt at far colder temperatures.

When considering <u>liquid coated ice melt</u> it is important to know the concerns and the pitfalls of using it. We pride ourselves on providing the best techniques and information to our customers.

## What is Brine?

In the simplest terms, brine is defined as salt dissolved in a solution. There are several other liquid deicers that have been developed but



none are as cost effective as brine. It is widely considered the best ice melt for asphalt.

## Pros and Cons of Brine

As with most anything these days, there are both positive and negative aspects of using brine. The most common positive aspects of brine are listed below:

- Ability to pretreat areas before snowfall
- Reduces the amount of salt needed for coverage
- Cuts cost
- Remains in place
- No residue following snow

Without question, one of the biggest benefits is being able to pretreat surfaces. In many cases, brine can be placed forty-eight hours before the first snowflake begins to fall. It still maintains its effectiveness. Because brine provides greater coverage, less salt is needed. This not only cuts cost, but also reduces the amount of chlorides filling runoff streams. Also, unlike salt pellets, which can bounce all over the place, brine stays in place. Where you apply it, is where it remains. Also, there is no white residue once the snow retreats. So, there is no worry about tracking it into the home or place of business.

Some of the negative aspects of brine are listed below:

- Cannot be used on all surfaces
- Hard to apply to sloped sites
- Cannot be applied if it is too cold
- Cannot be applied in rain

There are some permeable surfaces where brine should not be applied. It should also be noted that due to the fact it is a liquid, when applied on a slope, it likely will run off. Also, if brine is used



when the air temperatures are too cold, it can actually freeze and make conditions worse.

Whether looking for liquid coated ice melt or for an ice melt manufacturer, we are the answer. We can provide a solution for any situation. Contact us today.

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