

Exeter Public Works

Road Salt: How it Works and when our trucks go out.

When the mercury drops below 25 degrees F, salt effectiveness begins to diminish. In extreme cold it may have no effect at all. Currently the Public Works Department puts an additive on the salt to make it more effective in colder temperatures, but at zero degrees and below even the additive's effect is limited.

Salt effectiveness is also reduced, or even eliminated altogether, by freezing rain which washes the salt off the pavement and dissolves it.

Salt is spread along the entire length of the streets, slightly heavier amounts are placed at intersection approaches to improve stopping and drive ability. However, when driving on ice and snow covered pavement, your best bet is to do as if there were no salt on it at all. Allow a longer distance between you and the vehicle ahead, drive more slowly, and begin stopping well before you would in warmer weather. Salt trucks are very large and our drivers have only limited visibility so it is recommended to stay 100 feet back at all times.

Our sidewalks are treated with a salt sand mixture to improve foot traction but always use extreme caution when walking on ice and snow.

It's up to each driver to drive safely and be considerate and aware of other drivers.