

HOT TIP



Snow and ice melters that do not accelerate metal corrosion (urea and CMA) are generally not effective below 20° F and are expensive to use. To limit corrosion damage, use only the minimum amount of ice melter necessary and clear the resulting slush from susceptible areas as soon as melting has occurred.

CORROSIVENESS TO METALS

Interest in the effect ice melters have on metals, particularly steel and aluminum, has been gaining momentum as users evaluate the long term impact de-icers have on their equipment and surrounding structures. Several manufacturers have promoted products containing corrosion inhibitors. These products claim corrosion resistance by coating the target surfaces with a protective barrier. Of all the de-icers available today, only urea and CMA are recognized as preserving the integrity of metal surfaces.

Corrosion occurs when metal ions combine with oxygen, forming pits or rust. De-icers containing chloride ions increase the rate at which the oxygen from water reacts to break down metal surfaces.

