

INTRODUCTION

When old man winter comes knocking on your door you will need an ice melter you can count on to provide peace of mind for protection against slip and fall accidents. Your challenge is to choose the right product without being misled by exaggerated advertising claims.



Snow and ice melters are available at various costs and melting capabilities. When choosing which de-icer to use, you'll need to consider melting speed, potential damage to concrete and greenery, worker exposure, cost, toxicity, spreadability and corrosion resistance then relate the response each product has to these needs.

As with many products, tradeoffs are made as to cost and effectiveness. Materials such as rock salt may be easy on the budget, but lose effectiveness at low temperatures and possess a great potential for damage to concrete and vegetation. On the other hand, calcium chloride products, while effective to -25° F, are expensive, create greasy surfaces when tracked indoors and the applicators greatest threat concerning worker exposure issues.

This information guide describes many of the common ice melters today and evaluates their strengths and weaknesses. By looking beyond the advertised claims you can make informed decisions as to which de-icer is best for you.

HOT TIP



Helpful hints are given to provide users with ideas to improve the effectiveness of their ice melt program.