Tracking Residue

Another area of concern is the potential damage caused when an ice melter residue is tracked indoors. Nearly all de-icers have their drawbacks in this area.The key is understanding how to minimize the residue and to use products with the least damaging affect on indoor surfaces.

De-icers that form a solution will form a residue when the brine dilutes and finally evaporates. Residues that are water-soluble are usually easy to remove from indoor surfaces by normal water based cleaning procedures. Try to avoid products that contain clay particulate and high amounts of colorants. De-icers that are “clean” are less likely to stain, or cause cleaning problems.

Pay particular attention to evaluating the potential volume of ice melted with the volume of material applied. It makes sense to choose snow and ice melters that require less material to melt more ice at lower temperatures. Doubling up on the application rate may allow melting to lower temperatures (see Practical Use Rate) but will also increase your product costs and residue tracking.

Another concern in this area is the oily residues left from calcium and magnesium chloride applications. It should be noted that these materials are also used as dust control agents due to their aggressive sticky nature. These materials are easily tracked indoors and can be difficult to remove from carpet fibers. Furthermore, some surfaces can become slippery resulting in other safety concerns.

HOT TIP

Choose ice melters that will also minimize your risk to indoor surfaces. Select colorless or low color products that use less material to get the job done, and reduce use of materials that cause slick, oily residues.