



Highway Maintenance Manual

Chapter 06 Winter Maintenance

Section 20 Snow Removal Materials

Subject 65 Pre-Wetting Systems

Bureau of Highway Maintenance

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1.0 Prewetting Systems

Prewetted salt has been used successfully in Wisconsin since the early 1980s. It has been shown to help reduce salt usage by providing a liquid agent that starts the brine process quicker than when only dry salt is applied. It has also been shown to keep more salt on the pavement, thus allowing service providers to use only the amount of salt necessary to achieve the desired level of service or “bare/wet pavement” expectation. Limiting salt usage through the use of prewetting systems can also help control the effects of chlorides on the environment.

The preferred method for prewetting salt is through the use of an on-board prewetting system applied by the truck while plowing.

Salt used on the state highway system shall be prewetted when the conditions warrant (pavement temperature, type of snow, etc.). Prewetting may be done by a variety of methods. However, the preferred method is using on-board prewetting systems but could also be applied by spraying the load with a spray bar, spraying the bucket with a spray bar or by using premixed/prewetted salt.