

FAQs for Salt Brine

What is the City spraying on the roadway?

It is brine. It's a mixture of water and salt and is applied to the roadway to prevent the snow from bonding to the road.

Why are they spraying today? It's not snowing?

The brine can be applied up to seven days prior to a storm. When it dries in place the saturation from the new snow will reactivate it. We anticipate applying the brine solution during normal operating hours, 3-4 days prior to a predicted storm, which will also help reduce overtime.

Will brine hurt our vehicles or cause them to rust?

Washing or rinsing your vehicle of the brine solution after each storm event should reduce or have no effect on your vehicle.

Why is brine being used?

Brine will significantly reduce the amount of snow that bonds to the roadway, which will allow the snow to be plowed much easier. If the plow can remove the snow down to the pavement after just one pass, our streets will be plowed at a faster rate. By applying brine, we are reducing the amount of salt and sand that would typically be applied to the roadways.

Will my road have brine applied to it?

Since this is our first year using brine, we plan to pre-treat all of our Priority 1 streets including problem areas such as bridges, steep inclines and shady, hazardous areas. We anticipate expanding this program as we move through the winter season and for the next few years to come.

Will you still use salt and sand?

Yes, we will still use salt and sand on streets that are not pre-treated and in specific areas that have icing hazards. Generally, we will sand intersections and curves on the streets that are not pre-treated with the brine.