

Protect our fresh water

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District



Your community stands to benefit from reducing salt from water softeners and winter road maintenance. Chloride, a component of salt, is a rising pollutant in the area that could have environmental and economic impacts if not reduced.

WE HAVE A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE CHLORIDE

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is on a five-year regulatory timeline to meet chloride targets. If we're successful in reducing salt inputs to the sewer system in that time frame, we can save hundreds of millions of dollars for our community while protecting fresh water.

WHY SHOULD YOUR MUNICIPALITY CARE ABOUT CHLORIDE?

- **Sewer bills:** The sewerage district is regulated for chloride but its treatment plant is not designed to remove it. If chloride limits are not met, the district could be required to build treatment technology that would result in a significant rate increase for municipal customers.
- **Drinking water:** Chloride from road salt can enter drinking water wells, which can necessitate remediation of those wells past certain levels.
- **Nature:** Too much chloride can harm freshwater wildlife and alter water bodies.

LEARN MORE

Winter salt certification: www.wisaltwise.com

Chloride funding: www.madsewer.org; search "chloride grants"

You can also email questions to the pollution prevention team at the district, pp@madsewer.org.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN YOUR MUNICIPALITY TAKE TO REDUCE CHLORIDE?

As a municipality, you are a key partner in the district's chloride reduction program. Your staff, contacts with residents, data, and other resources can strengthen chloride reduction efforts and help us achieve success. Incorporate these actions into your municipality's schedules and work plans:

Well monitoring and reporting:

If your community owns groundwater monitoring wells, sample them for chloride levels annually and submit the results to the district by March 1 of the following year.

Winter maintenance optimization:

All municipal road salt applicators, and any contractors that apply salt in your community, should go through the City of Madison Winter Salt Certification program. The majority of the district's customer communities have sent staff to these trainings, so if you have new applicators or any staff who haven't yet been to training, make sure they attend this year. Ensure that your community has a winter maintenance plan in place that emphasizes salt application best practices.

Water softener improvements:

Encourage large water users in your community, such as hotels, institutions, multifamily residences and industries, to apply for funding programs available from the district to reduce their salt use. Promote these programs through mailings, direct contacts or work with local chambers of commerce and business groups.

Educate residents:

Spread the word about chloride reduction to homes and businesses in your community. Elevate the importance of taking action now.