**STOP!**

Read this BEFORE you apply de-icer to your concrete...

TCA recently conducted research showing that allowing deicing salts containing magnesium chloride (an ingredient in most commercial de-icing products) to penetrate into concrete can cause **SERIOUS** damage to your concrete. How can this damage be minimized and the life of your concrete extended? Not surprisingly, limiting the amount of deicing salts that enter the concrete greatly reduces the damage.

**A Little Dab Will Do You**

Most people think more is better when it comes to applying deicers. But over-application of deicers just allows more of this chemical to seep inside your concrete and cause damage. Always apply deicers according to the application rate recommended on the package. It is a surprisingly small amount. And, finally, always remember to wash it off when weather permits.

**For New Construction**

A less permeable concrete reduces both the rate and amount of deicing salts that enter concrete. Homeowners can think ahead and specify a lower permeability concrete mixture when building concrete structures and your TCA concrete producer member can help with this. Does less permeable concrete cost a little more than normal concrete? Yes, however, routinely changing the oil in your vehicle costs a little more but results in tremendous savings in the long run. Think of your concrete as the same kind of investment.

**For Existing Concrete**

If you just bought a new home or installed a new patio, sidewalk or driveway (and it isn’t lower permeability concrete) the most important thing you can do is apply a penetrating sealer to the concrete per manufacturer’s instructions. These sealers will act as a barrier to deicing salts and water. **Untreated normal concrete can lose more than half of its strength as a result of using deicers** but when sealed properly is much more resistant to such adverse impacts. Those are numbers that literally can be tallied in dollars and cents in just a few short years.

Call Tennessee Concrete Association with questions at 615-360-7393 or watch our video on de-icers on our website at: https://www.tnconcrete.org/homeowner-consumers
A Picture is Worth $$$$ - YOUR Dollars?

Your concrete is a significant investment so making sure YOUR concrete is protected should be your number one goal. Specifying lower permeable concrete is great but sealing normal concrete can also make a HUGE difference. Take a look to see!

Cross Section of a Sample of Normal Concrete WITH A SEALER. Deicer didn’t make its way into this concrete. This is the goal.

Exterior of Normal Concrete WITH A SEALER. Deicer didn’t make its way into this concrete. This is the goal.

Normal Concrete WITHOUT A SEALER. Notice the deicer has penetrated deep into the concrete.

Normal Concrete WITHOUT A SEALER. Notice the deicer has penetrated the exterior of the concrete and damage is beginning to appear.

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