

▶ CARING FOR NEW CONCRETE WORK



NEW CONCRETE PRECAUTIONS

When concrete is first poured it becomes strong enough to walk on in 24 hours, and can handle car traffic within 7 days, even though it continues to develop strength gradually over time. Therefore:

- **Please avoid using any ice-chipping tools on new concrete surfaces - sidewalk, driveway, and curb.**
- **Please avoid using deicing chemicals on the new concrete for the first winter. This includes avoiding the use of chemicals that cause melt and runoff onto new concrete.**

Deicers, even those advertised as “safe for concrete”, can cause damage to concrete, particularly new concrete, leading to costly repairs. It can actually take up to one year for concrete to fully cure or “harden.” Therefore, concrete in its first year is more susceptible to the pressures of freeze/thaw cycles.



Before Use of Deicer



After Use of Deicer

WHAT TO DO ABOUT SLIP HAZARDS?

Using sand for traction on new concrete is acceptable and is preferred over using deicers. It provides suitable traction, protects new concrete surfaces, and is significantly less expensive than deicers! Traction sand is available at most all the same locations as deicers.

The best thing for the concrete would be to use no deicers at all, but the need to eliminate slip and fall hazards is clearly most important. Many people use rock salt (sodium chloride), but it is one of the most destructive and corrosive deicers. Most available deicers are a blend of sodium, calcium, and magnesium chloride. If a chemical deicer is desired, magnesium chloride based products are the least corrosive; examples include:

- Safe Thaw Industrial Strength Ice Melt
- Road Runner Magnesium Chloride Pellets
- Harris Safe Melt Ice Melter

HOW MUCH SHOULD I USE?

Please use only enough to provide traction over slippery areas, after snow removal has been completed. Please remove any accumulated slush after the deicer has started working. Please do not blanket the sidewalk with deicer in advance of an anticipated snowfall. A general rule of thumb is less is better for the concrete.

We want the new concrete to last many years into the future and with your help we can accomplish this goal. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in first considering the use of sand, or only using deicer products that minimize the impacts to the new concrete.



QUESTIONS? Please contact:

City of Valdez | Capital Facilities and Engineering | (907) 835-5574