

# GETTING THE FACTS ABOUT SALT BRINE!

## WHAT IS SALT BRINE?

Salt brine is water saturated with sodium chloride, or more simply, rock salt dissolved in water. It will be the County's anti-icing program beginning in 2010/2011 to take a proactive approach to controlling snow and ice on Cumberland County's roadways. Applying brine to the roadway is similar to spraying a frying pan with oil to keep food from sticking to the bottom of the pan.

## WHEN IS SALT BRINE USED?

Salt brine is applied by spraying it onto the pavement up to 72 hours in advance of a winter storm.

## PRE-TREATING

Pre-treating is a snow fighting strategy used in anticipation of road/bridge frost or warmer winter storms (normally above 15° F). If applied just before a winter storm, salt brine will begin working as soon as the first snowflake falls and will help delay the accumulation of snow and ice on the pavement.



## WHY USE SALT BRINE?

It is anticipated that the cost savings for the County will be approximately \$26,000 per storm, in material costs alone. Salt brine is much more cost effective and brine also allows the Public Works Department to apply during normal working hours. In addition this allows the County to have our entire routes pre-treated before the driving conditions deteriorate. This will help the snow/ice from bonding to the pavement surface. As a result, the roads return to bare pavement much quicker once the storm has ended.

## HOW IS SALT BRINE APPLIED TO THE ROAD WHEN PRE-TREATING?

Motorists can expect to see Cumberland County crews pre-treating the roads with salt brine using our specially modified trucks, with units that slide into the back of a typical plow truck.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN FOLLOWING A VEHICLE APPLYING SALT BRINE?

Vehicles applying salt brine usually travel at speeds of less than 40 miles per hour. Motorists should stay back at least 500 feet from the vehicle.

## WHAT ARE OTHER ADVANTAGES OF USING SALT BRINE?

1. Anti-icing returns road surfaces to normal faster, resulting in fewer accidents and delays.
2. Using a liquid ice-melter jumpstarts the melting process because salt needs moisture to be effective.
3. Brine doesn't bounce or blow off the road surface so material is used more efficiently.
4. If the storm is delayed salt residue remains on the road ready to begin work when precipitation begins.
5. Crews can cover more territory by beginning treatment in advance of a storm.
6. Increased efficiency results in use of less salt, minimizing environmental concerns.



# WINTER TIDBITS!

## DRIVEWAY CLEARING TIPS

The following suggestions are intended to make your driveway snow removal easier and safer:

- If possible, wait until the road has been completely plowed to the curb before shoveling the last 5-10 feet of your driveway. This way less snow from the road will end up in your driveway. It takes several hours after a typical storm has ended for the County to completely clear snow from the road.
- It is best to place snow on the far side of your driveway, away from the direction the plow is traveling. In most cases, this means placing the snow on the right side of your driveway as you face the road. This way the plow will carry the snow away from your driveway, rather than back into it.
- Do **NOT** shovel, blow, or plow snow from your driveway into or across the road. Remember, you can be held responsible for the actions of your contractor!
- Do **NOT** allow children to play on snow banks along the side of the road. The County may need to push back snow banks days after a storm to create room for the next snow event.

## WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- Clean your vehicle of all snow and ice, including the roof, required by law in the state of New Jersey.
- Allow extra time to reach your destination. During snow storms, travel only when absolutely necessary.
- Keep a safe distance from plow trucks and other vehicles.

## CHECKLIST OF ITEMS YOU SHOULD MAINTAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE

- All-season tires on your car.
- Shovel & a sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- Flashlights with extra batteries.
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags for sanitation
- Matches
- Extra set of mittens, socks & a wool cap.
- Snow gear & extra clothes
- Tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver, etc.)
- Booster cables
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Bottled water
- Snacks

## POTHOLES

The County takes pot holes very seriously. Maintenance crews are constantly on the lookout for potholes, but we welcome citizen calls about potholes as well. The sooner the pothole is reported, the more quickly Public Works can remove that road hazard.

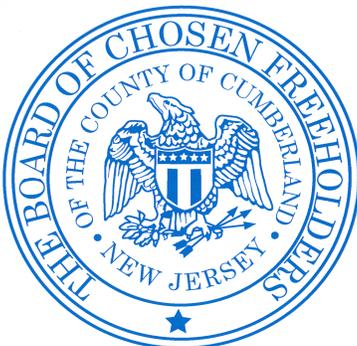
If you see a pothole that needs repair, please call the County at 453-2192 or on the web at: [www.co.cumberland.nj.us](http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us) and click on the *Citizen Service Request* Link to help expedite our response. Please be prepared to provide some specific information such as:

1. The exact location.
2. Size (approximate length/width/depth).
3. Whether the pothole is in the driving lane or shoulder.

The more information we have, the better we can serve you.

## REMEMBER THESE GENERAL RULES WHEN DRIVING AROUND SNOW EQUIPMENT:

- Don't pass a snow plow.
- Don't assume the snow plow operator can see you. Every truck has blind spots which reduce side and rear visibility.
- Allow plenty of stopping distance; don't follow too closely.
- Keep your headlights on low beam
- Slow Down



Please direct any questions to  
Cumberland County Department  
of Public Works  
856-453-2192  
800 E. Commerce Street  
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302