

**Q.** Is there such a thing as an environmentally friendly way to de-ice my front walk? I've noticed pet-friendly salts and garden- and grass-friendly products, but are they all bad for the earth?

**A.** Shoveling your sidewalk, chipping away ice and laying off any de-icer is the best approach, but sometimes safe passage requires a little extra. While rock salt (usually sodium chloride) is amazingly effective at melting ice, it's also a highly corrosive toxin that ruins soil, contaminates groundwater and is harmful to pets.

Many animal- and garden-friendly products are actually anti-icers that contain calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a compound that prevents ice from forming. These anti-icers are available in both liquid and granular form but require frequent use and the ability to predict the weather.

If you still feel you have to use salt, you may want to switch from sodium chloride to potassium chloride, which is less corrosive. And ensure you are not using too much; a single handful is enough for a square yard area.

Source: [Greenliving.com](http://Greenliving.com)

