

# The Great Western News

October 2007

Ask Mr. Janitor:

Last year after overnight snows, we came in extra early to plow and spread ice melt. However, when people started to arrive, our walks were still very slippery because the ice melt had just barely started to work. Any ideas on how to improve that?



Mr. Janitor Answers:

Other than coming in even earlier, you need a faster acting ice melt. There are many different ice melts on the market with different melting properties. Talk to the folks at Great Western. They carry many different ice melts. They can help you choose one that will work best for your situation.

The question Mr. Janitor answered is important. Keeping your facility's grounds safe in winter weather is crucial. Ice melt can play a major role in preventing slip-and-fall accidents because it rids your surfaces of ice. Falls can represent a huge liability issue. The judgment on your company from one slip-and-fall accident could buy a lot of ice melt.

Here at Great Western, we stock several different ice melts. Most ice melts on the market are made from one, or a blend of, five materials: calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, and urea. Many of the ice melts we carry are coated with one of several accelerants to help increase the speed of melting. Also, many of our ice melt products have colored coverage indicators in them so you can see how you are spreading the product. Many people use too much. Check your label instructions for spreading directions and use a spreader of some kind to properly and evenly spread your ice melt.

One of the best values in ice melt on the market is a product named *Triple Melt*. *Triple Melt* is a blend of sodium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, a colorant, to help you see your application coverage, and *Activar*, which is a patented accelerator to greatly speed the melting process. *Triple Melt* with *Activar* begins the melting process as soon as it hits the ice and will melt ice in temperatures as low as -15 degrees. It will not harm concrete or vegetation when used according to label instructions.

Great Western carries *Triple Melt* along with other brands of ice melt with different ingredients and different characteristics. We will have an ice melt to meet your specific needs.

No matter which ice melt you use, remember to come back after a short time to remove any left over melting ice to prevent it from refreezing.

Also, remember to have entrance mats at your doors to help prevent winter's crud from being tracked into your facility.



If you have any questions about ice melt products, entrance mats or any of the other thousands of products we carry, please give us a call at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or at our Cedar Rapids office at 319/395-0445.