

## Taking Care of Your Concrete – Deicers

Use of deicers on your new drive, sidewalk or patio could be harmful!

### Remember:

1. **Avoid the Use of any deicers first year** – You wouldn't use a strong caustic soap and clean your new wall to wall carpet! Nor would you use acid to clean your new kitchen or bathroom fixtures! In fact, you're pretty careful how you clean and take care of your new home inside, but what about outside concrete walks, drives, patio, porch and steps? Give the new exposed concrete around your house the same consideration as your new interior. It's quality concrete, but don't abuse it!
2. **Use Plain Sand Anytime:** Avoid using any deicing chemical the first winter if at all possible. The only safe material to use to make the concrete surface skid resistant is plain sand.
3. **Never use deicers containing ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulphate:** These chemicals are often packaged and sold as deicers but they will rapidly disintegrate concrete.
4. **The application of a penetrating concrete sealer will protect surface from deicers and make snow and ice removal easier:** A quality penetrating sealer will add years to the life of your concrete. Many good proprietary brands are available or use boiled linseed oil and mineral spirits mixed 50/50.

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