

# WE'RE POURING **MILLIONS** OF POUNDS OF **SALT** ON ROADS EACH WINTER.

## Why might that be a problem?

Each winter, more than 700 million pounds of salt is spread on sidewalks, parking lots, streets and highways in Minnesota. What happens to all this salt when spring arrives? Help investigate the environmental consequences of salt:

### COLLECT

**Using a clean container**, gather a snow and/or ice sample or lake or stream sample from a site of your choosing. Make a note of where you collected your sample – was it from a street, a pond, a yard?

### PROTECT

Bring your sample indoors and **melt enough of it to produce at least one cup of liquid water**. Pour your liquid sample into a clean, sealable plastic container.

### DELIVER

Bring your one cup of liquid water in its **sealed plastic container** to the Mississippi River Gallery at the **Science Museum of Minnesota** between **12:00 and 4:00 p.m., February 19**, Presidents' Day.

### DISCOVER

With the help of museum scientists, **test your water sample** for dissolved solids, a good indicator for chloride – a main ingredient in winter salt. Record and compare your results. Talk with scientists, journalists and experts about how to **be smarter about salt use**.

**The Citizen Science Winter Salt Lab** is a partnership of the Science Museum of Minnesota's Water Planet Initiative and Minnesota Public Radio's the Water Main with additional support from the University of Minnesota's Department of Earth Sciences. Find out more at <http://mprnews.org/salt>.

