



## TRUE BLUE News

### Do You Know?



Salt used to de-ice roads and sidewalks contains chloride.

Salt is causing Torch Lake to be saltier.

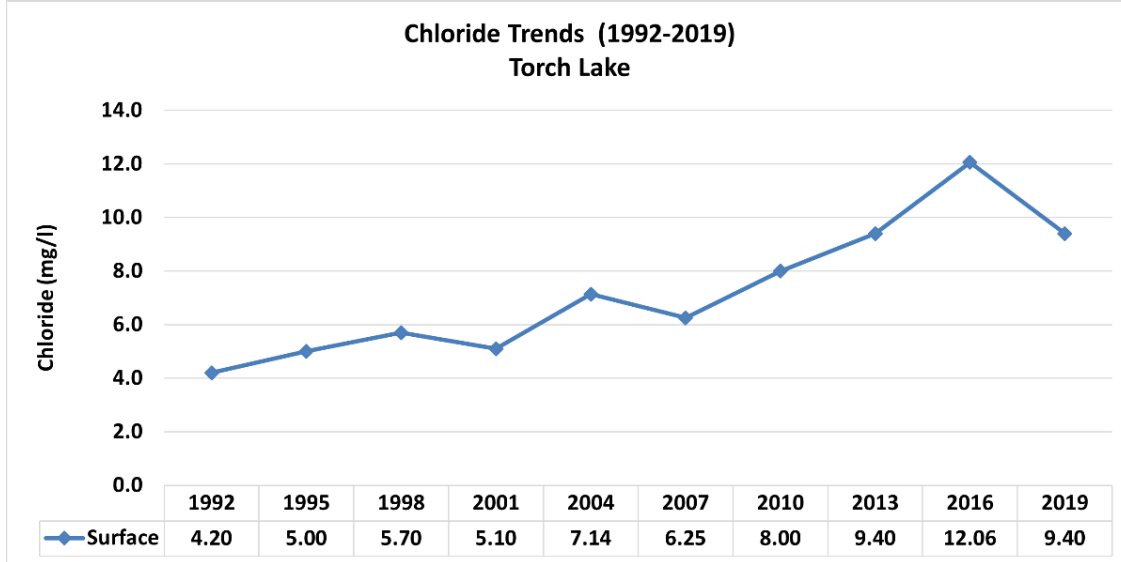
Salt can kill your grass and plants.

Salt is toxic to freshwater fish, aquatic bugs and amphibians.

Torch Lake chloride concentrations have doubled from 1992 to 2019.

In 2019, the chloride concentration decline was likely a

dilution effect from more water accompanying high water levels.



Source: Tip of the Mitt, Triennial Deep Basin Water Monitoring

## Key Facts:

De-icing salts typically contain sodium chloride (NaCl), because it is cheaper and more commonly used than

- magnesium chloride
- potassium chloride
- calcium chloride
- other calcium salt.

De-icing salts lower the freezing point of water to 20 °F or as low as -30°F, so ice melts.

De-icing salts can pollute groundwater and cause property owners to dig new wells.

De-icing salts can travel in snowmelt and rainwater runoff into creeks, ditches and roads to Torch Lake.



Sand + Salt applied to road.

Photo: Torch Conservation Center



## Show You Care!

**Use salt sparingly.**

**Step 1.** Shovel, scrape and sweep snow **OFTEN** to remove snow to prevent ice buildup.



**Step 2.** If needed to prevent slips and falls, apply deicing salts correctly.

DO NOT APPLY TO SNOW. Remove snow first.

**Step 3.** Follow directions on label including proper air temperature for application.

**Step 4.** More is not better. Spread salt evenly; leave at least 3 inches between grains.

**Step 5.** Avoid spilling or piling of salt.

**Step 6.** Sweep up any salt grains you see on dry surfaces.

Save in a container to reapply later.

CAUTION: De-icing salt can harm your Pups!

De-icing salt can

- burn your dog's paws
- harm your dog if ingested from licking their paws.

Be sure to give your dog's paws a warm water wash when you get inside.



Little snow shovel (er) mishap.

**Sources:**

Tributary chloride loading into Lake Michigan Limnology and Oceanography (Dugan, H.A., L.A. Rock, A. D. Kendal, R. J. Mooney, 2021)

Triennial Water Monitoring Program (Tip of the Mitt, 2019)

The Effects of De-icing Salts on Landscape (University of Minnesota Extension, 2020)



Torch Lake with her Winter White Scarf

Photo: Brian Apley

**If you love her, [Care for Torch!](#)**

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