

# WINTER TIME!

*WHAT CAN BE USED INSTEAD OF SALT?*

4

## ECO-FRIENDLY ICE MELTS

**FIREPLACE ASHES** work to create traction with ice melting effects. Wood ash contains potash (potassium salts) which will help de-ice and melt snow in moderate conditions.

**HOMEMADE DE-ICER** can be made with ingredients you might have in your house. All you need is:

- ◆ A bucket
- ◆ Six drops of dish soap
- ◆ Half-gallon of hot water
- ◆ ¼ cup of rubbing alcohol

Combine all of the ingredients in the bucket. Once you pour the homemade ice melt mixture onto your sidewalk or driveway, the snow and ice will begin to bubble up and melt. Just keep a shovel handy to scrape away any leftover pieces of ice.

**ALFALFA MEAL ICE MELT** is commonly used as fertilizer. It contains nitrogen, but not enough to risk harm to plants or your local water system. Alfalfa meal has a dry, grainy texture that provides traction while it goes to work melting snow and ice. Bags of alfalfa can be purchased at most gardening stores.

**SUGAR BEET JUICE** on its own or diluted in salt solution can lower the freezing point of water, and help to deice slippery roads, driveways and sidewalks. The odorless and virtually colorless substance is completely harmless to humans, animals, plants, cars, fabrics, and water systems. But you can't open a jar of beets and pour it on your driveway to get the same results. It has to be purchased from office suppliers, garden centers or online.

Please note that in extreme cold weather, both salt and eco-friendly ice melts tend to lose their effectiveness. Always use caution when walking or driving when snow and/or ice might be present.