



## CARMEL, INDIANA FINDS THE RIGHT DEICER THAT'S BETTER ON ROADS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The City of Carmel, Indiana isn't afraid to test drive new deicing technology. Over the years the northern Indianapolis suburb has spread just about every type of deicer on their roads including agricultural products.

The results weren't exactly what they were looking for, however.

"We tried agricultural products as a pretreatment on roundabouts for a few years," said Dave Huffman, street commissioner with the City. "Cars were hitting it and sliding off the road because it was so slick, however, so we had to follow it with straight salt to compensate."

The City decided to try something new, and was introduced to a product produced by Cargill Deicing Technology called ClearLane® enhanced deicer. That was about six years ago, and the City of Carmel hasn't looked back.

"We've come to the conclusion that this deicing product is the best thing for us to use," Huffman said. "It just has fewer question marks, which is good peace of mind."

The deicer product used by Huffman is a salt product that's different than raw rock salt because it contains a pre-wetting agent and coloring agent. These chemical additives help keep roads clear by providing a faster reaction time and longer residual effects, and they also protect application equipment from salt induced corrosion.

"This product was a solution for us for a number of reasons, but the reaction time is a huge benefit," Huffman said. "In less than fifteen minutes we see the effects, and we're laying about 20-30% less product compared to straight salt, which saves time and dollars."

While the quick reaction time creates initial effects after a snow or ice storm, the deicer's residual effects have additionally impressed the City, and help them save on application costs and labor as well.

"There have been times when we get a dusting, an inch of snow, or even rain after a major event and the deicer product on the roads is still working," Huffman said. "That's a lot of dollars saved when you don't have to send twenty trucks out to reapply."



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Huffman noted applying the deicer is much easier for the trucks as well, because the product doesn't stick together and cause jams in the spreaders.

"It didn't take much for the drivers to come on board and enjoy the new deicing product," Huffman said. "Spreading is so much easier because it just doesn't clump, even after sitting in the barn all summer."

The non-clumping feature also makes loading the application trucks more convenient, and once the deicer travels from the truck to the road, it sticks to the pavement, ensuring less scatter from wind and traffic.

"There's definitely less bounce than with salt," he said. "We don't lose a lot of product to the edge of the road. It will roll some of course, but we don't have that big problem where the sides of the road are melted and the center of the road isn't."

In the warm seasons, keeping product off the edges of winter roads becomes an environmental benefit to roadside vegetation as well. Huffman noted that the City is rarely burdened by dead vegetation along the edge of the roads, a result that can occur when using straight salt.

While the lack of vegetation burnout is one environmental upside to using the deicer product, its non-leaching feature is an additional green-friendly benefit.

"It doesn't leach, plain and simple," Huffman said. "Our storage barn backs up to a four-acre pond, and we're loading twenty trucks right in front of the inlets. We haven't had any fish kills, algae problems, or anything else that would make us think twice about using the deicer, so we know it's not leaching into the environment."

Maintaining around 250 paved lane miles, the City of Carmel uses between 5,000 and 6,000 tons of product each season, and ClearLane® enhanced deicer continues to be their choice for effective winter road maintenance.

"We've watched the deicer melt ice at -8 degrees below zero, and we were really impressed," Huffman said. "We've been impressed about all the properties of the deicer, and when it comes down to it, it's more cost effective and it works better. Plain and simple, it's the solution we were looking for."

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