

How Salty Are You?

11/22/2022

The City of Fennimore Wastewater plant is required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to monitor the Chlorides (salt) that are being discharged from the sewer plant on a monthly basis. Our average chloride level is around 375 milligrams per gallon. Our wastewater plant discharges, on average, 150,000 gallons a day to the Gregory Branch Stream. Our daily salt discharge is around 124 pounds of salt a day. This is why the DNR is requesting that we monitor our salt levels. We have too much salt in our sewer water.

What can you do to help out? The first is to inspect your water softener. Make sure you have it set for the most minimal amount you or your business needs. If you install a new water softener, make sure it is an **on-demand softener**, as you will use less salt. Sidewalk and parking lot salting is the next area you can help. Do not over salt, which most of the areas in the city are over salted. Seeing sidewalks or parking lots colored green or blue from salt means too much is being used. You are paying extra money that is only washed away during thaws or rain storms. What doesn't make it into our storm system makes it into the sewer system and also seeps into our well water at a small rate. This small rate of infiltration to municipal wells has been going up the last 10 years because we use too much salt for ice control.

Be cautious with your salt use and take time to watch the salt wise video from the WI DNR. Videos can be found on YouTube under "WI Salt Wise". Or visit the DNR salt wise page at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/52716> and learn more about efficient and better salt use which will protect our waterways. I also invite you to participate in Salt Awareness week January 23-27, 2023 and read our posts on the problem of too much salt.

Thank you,
City of Fennimore Sewer and Water Department
608-822-6718

"It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems"