

Making a difference in Boone County...

STAY OFF THE ROAD

Federal Highway Administration reports indicate the risk of vehicular accidents rises sharply in winter weather conditions. In an average year, there are more than half a million vehicle crashes when the roads are snowy, slushy, or icy, resulting in nearly 2,000 fatalities and 150,000 injuries. Driving is very dangerous during and immediately after a winter storm. Make plans to stay off the roads when advisories and watches are issued.

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY

If driving is absolutely necessary, ensure you have emergency supplies including food and water, warm clothing, and a full tank of gas in case you are stuck in traffic or have an accident and have to wait several hours for assistance. Try to travel during the day and do not travel alone. Stay on main roads. Let someone know your destination, route, and expected arrival time.

COLD WEATHER: REMINDER

Today	Wed.	Thu.
		
Hi. 52 Lo. 49	Hi. 71 Lo. 57	Hi. 77 Lo. 62

SAFETY TIPS

- » Stay indoors during the colder temperatures.
- » If you need to go out, dress in layers and wear hats, gloves and an appropriate coat.
- » Avoid overexertion, as cold weather puts added strain on your body.
- » Observe heater safety: Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water; keep heat sources at least three feet away from furniture and drapes.

PET SAFETY TIPS

- » Keep your pets inside.
- » Bang loudly on your car's hood before starting the motor to warn cats possibly sleeping beneath it.
- » Never let your dog off the leash on ice.
- » Make sure pets have a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts.

SOURCE: ASPCA, FEMA and NWS.



CAUTION: CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS

Each year, an average of 430 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning and more than 20,000 people visit the emergency room, resulting in more than 4,000 hospitalizations.

Carbon monoxide-related deaths are highest during colder months. These deaths are likely due to the increased use of gas-powered furnaces and alternative heating, cooking, and power sources used inappropriately indoors during power outages. **NEVER** use a generator, grill, camp stove, or charcoal burning device inside or in any partially enclosed area; keep these devices at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents. If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or to an open window or door. Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Making a difference in Boone Communities...

The Environmental Impact of Pavement Salt.....

Economic impacts: Water pipes and hot water systems rust more easily in homes with a higher salinity concentration in the the water. Salt on roads penetrate concrete to corrode the reinforcing rods causing damage to bridges, roads and cracked pavement. Salt also it corrodes metals on automobiles.

Contamination of groundwater: Chloride is water soluble and not readily removed by any natural chemical process. Chloride increases the cost of treating water for drinking, reduces the suitability/availability of water for irrigation and other industrial applications, and contributes to the loss of productive land.

Harmful to human health: Excess dietary sodium is associated with hypertension and up to 30% of the US population could have borderline hypertension. But the major objection to concentrations of sodium in public water supplies arises from the taste preference of consumers.

Influence on plants: Elevated sodium and chloride levels in soils inhibit water absorption and reduce root growth. Salt also disrupts the uptake of plant nutrients and inhibits long-term growth.

Influence on wildlife: Damage to vegetation degrades wildlife habitat by destroying food resources, habitat corridors, shelter, and breeding or nesting sites. Increased salinity levels in freshwater rivers, creeks or wetlands may kill native plants or animals or make them sick. This can cause species loss in sensitive river and wetland reserves. Some animals eat road salt causing “salt toxicosis” where they lose their fear of vehicles and humans, causing many fatal encounters. Also, salt acts like a desiccant and will dry out and crack animal paw pads - house pets are particularly susceptible.

Birds: Seed-eating birds may not be able to distinguish between road-salt crystals and the mineral grit their diets require. This means behavioral abnormalities can occur in small bird species with ingestion of a single salt particle and death can occur with ingestion of two particles.



Eco-Friendly Ways to De-Ice Your Driveway

1. **Snow shovel:** Minimize snow and ice by shoveling. If shoveling is too challenging for you, pay a neighborhood kid a few dollars to help.
2. **Get a grip:** Scatter sand or birdseed for traction. The grains won't melt snow or ice, but will give you more grip on icy surfaces.
3. **Scrimp on the de-icer:** The job of a de-icer is to loosen ice from below to make it easier to shovel or plow. Don't pile on the de-icer thinking you'll remove the ice completely. You won't. The recommended application rate for rock salt is around a handful per square yard treated. Calcium chloride will treat about three square yards per handful.
4. **Pick your salt carefully:** If you do use salt, choose wisely. Sodium chloride (NaCl) may contain cyanide. Calcium chloride (CaCl) is slightly better since less goes farther, but it is still not ideal, since its run-off still increases algae growth, which clogs waterways. Potassium chloride is another salt to avoid. Whatever you use, keep it away from landscape plants, especially those that are particularly salt-sensitive, like tulip poplars, maples, balsam firs, white pines, hemlock, Norway spruce, dogwood, redbud, rose bushes and spirea bushes.
5. **Skip the kitty litter or wood ashes:** Neither melts snow and ice, and they have a tendency to get messy when it warms up.
6. **Avoid products that contain nitrogen-based urea:** They're more expensive and are not effective once the temperature drops below 20°F. Plus, the application rate for urea during a single deicing is ten times greater than that needed to fertilize the same area of your yard.
7. **Get the boot:** Wear boots that have a solid toe and bottom treads to help increase your grip on icy surfaces.

Making a difference in Boone Rural Areas...

The benefits provided by cover crops are valuable not for sustaining food production capacity and for regenerating soil. Many of these benefits are a result of the things cover crops do that we don't see: their roots grow deep, helping soil structure, storing soil carbon and improving overall soil health. These benefits come about partly through keeping green cover on the land for more of the year than would be possible with row crops alone, but also because cover crops add biodiversity to cropping systems. That extra diversity sometimes helps reduce disease in corn and soybean, creates a better balance of fungi and bacteria in the soil, and leads to more earthworms aiding porosity and rainfall infiltration. Because of all the benefits cover crops can provide, they are unlike almost any other crop input; although not a cure-all, they definitely increase the health of cropping systems. For maximum soil health benefits, consider combining cover crops with no-till or strip-till diversified crop rotations and possibly grazing the covers with livestock where feasible.



A multipurpose tool on a farm, cover crops can help accomplish several goals:

- **Keep soil from washing away.**
- **Keep expensive fertilizers in the field and out of the water supply.**
- **Produce nitrogen (with a legume cover).**
- **Reduce soil compaction.**
- **Improve soil moisture management.**
- **Allow more rain to soak into the soil.**
- **Control challenging weeds.**
- **Improve commodity yields over time.**

Oilseed Radishes

Radishes have become a popular cover crop due to their rapid fall growth, deep taproot, good fall soil coverage (if planted early enough), and ability to scavenge soil nutrients that might otherwise leach out of the soil. Radishes normally winterkill in Missouri. They establish relatively easily when broadcast seeded, which is good because radishes often need to be aerial seeded in late August or early September to achieve adequate fall growth. Review the residual herbicides applied to the preceding commodity crop to make sure none will affect radish establishment.

Forage Turnips

Like radishes, forage turnips are a member of the Brassica family that does best planted in early fall. Although not quite as vigorous in growth as the best oilseed radish varieties, the leafy top-growth and the tuber are good forage for grazing livestock. Turnip top-growth typically dies by late December. Turnips are often mixed with another forage species, such as cereal grass.

*Note both give off a rather pungent smell while decomposing that can be noticed during winter thaw periods

Making a difference in Boone Homes...

DOGS POOP IN THE COLD WEATHER TOO...

<http://www.twodogtownhouse.com/dog-poop-pick-up-cold-weather/>

If you live in a climate that has a cold winter season there are also many additional challenges related to dog poop pick up.

- When you get home from work and let the dog outside, it's too dark to see the poop to pick it up.
- Since you can't pick the waste up right away, it can freeze, then it's hard to pick up because it's frozen to the grass. I've actually tried to kick under it (when it's frozen) with a boot and that seemed to free it up but I certainly wasn't happy to find out once that it wasn't as frozen as I thought. If you try to handle your dog poop pick up duties when it's frozen, it sometimes breaks apart and scatters about the whole area. You end up with a very unattractive dusting of "brown stuff".
- If you try to pick your dog's poop up when the temperatures rise, it's squishy and gross and hard to pick up.
- If you leave it outside for a while, it's also likely that I'll step on poop when it starts to melt and then track it inside. Then I'll get in trouble even though it's really not my fault.
- If it snows, the dog poop gets buried in the snow. Then you can't find it when you want to pick it up.
- And... it's cold outside. It doesn't bother me much, but the people don't seem to like it.

So what do I do?

A Bucket... With Holes

Dog poop pick up is different in the winter than in the other months. We just reviewed many of the problems related to dog poop pick up problems that you see in the winter. However, there is a huge plus... it's cold.

If you live where you really have to deal with crappy weather, it means it's cold enough so that the dog's poop will freeze. That means there is no smell to deal with or worry about covering up.

If your dog waste system includes putting the dog's poop in the trash, you will still need a container to store it in and you will still need to line it with trash bags so you can put it in the weekly trash. However, you won't need individual bags because you don't need to contain the smell.

One problem you have to deal with is the snow. No matter how careful you are on your dog poop pick up duties, you will get some snow mixed in with the poop when you pick it up. You can use an old bucket (with holes), wire basket, old fashioned plastic milk crates, etc or anything else that can stay outside, contain the poop but allow some of the liquid to run off as the snow melts.

Then once a week or so you can dump the poop into the weekly trash bag and toss it.

