

## How do Ice Melters Work?

In order for an ice melter to begin to working, solid granule material must dissolve in water to create a liquid brine. When the ground temperature gets too cold, some ice melters are unable to make this essential conversion. The air temperature is not nearly as important as the temperature of the ground – this is the temperature that has a direct effect on the ice melter’s ability to convert to brine, and effectively dealing with snow and ice.

Some melters, like Sodium Chloride (rock salt), are effective at higher temperatures while products like Calcium Chloride and Pro-Slicer are formulated to function on the subzero degree range.

Consider the ground temperature, not the air temperature. What does it mean when the weather report is 10 degrees F at sunrise and my ice melter has an effective temperature of 0 degrees F? Will the ice melter work? What if this morning is the first day in ten where the temperature is actually warmer than five below? Ground Temperature is crucial.

Another way to maximize effectiveness is to apply ice melt materials in advance of an anticipated winter weather event, rather than applying after snow has already fallen.

The primary goal of ice melting products is to prevent the adhesion of snow and ice to pavement surfaces, and this task is significantly simplified if the ice melter can immediately react to falling snow.