

Chemical Safety Training Checklist

Knowledge of chemicals and usage (liquid and granular anti-icing/deicing materials) is necessary to safely and effectively clear walkways. Use this checklist to train sidewalk crew members on the proper and safe handling, usage, and identification of chemicals that may be used or stored. The chemical and material composition of these products can pose health and safety risks to the applicator, handler, or even community if they come in contact with them.



Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

The use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) is required by many local, state, federal, or provincial regulatory agencies, so foundational knowledge is necessary.

- Know the location of all Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for any chemicals that personnel may be exposed to. Common locations that should be considered are:
 - Inside administrative or operations facilities
 - Inside vehicles and equipment that carry chemicals
 - Inside the company yard where chemical storage, handling and use takes place
 - Inside the company shop where handling and exposures are common

- Understand how to read the Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Vital sections for snow and ice industry personnel include:
 - #1 – Chemical and Substance Identification
 - #2 – Hazardous Information and Ingredients
 - #3 – Chemical Characteristics and Composition
 - #4 – First Aid and Care Measures
 - #6 – Release Mitigation and Control Measures
 - #7 – Safe Storage and Handling
 - #8 – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Exposure Controls
 - All other key sections (total of 16) that outline additional chemical exposures, protection and regulatory information

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Know before you go

- Do not use any chemical or product without the proper training, which includes:
 - SDS Information and safe handling training
 - Hands-on application methods
 - Transportation training and containers/storage
 - Risks and exposures to skin, eye, and mouth irritation, as well as potential property, turf, and building damage from improper application

Hands-on safety tips

- Always use proper eye protection (e.g. eyeglasses or goggles) to prevent liquid splashing and spraying exposure, and dust and debris from granular chemicals.
- Use nonporous gloves that extend up the forearm to prevent skin exposure. Use gloves that are appropriate for circumstances such as gloves with grip for carrying pails, lifting bags and equipment, or using walkway equipment to clear snow and ice.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and jackets and pants such as jeans, cargo or waterproof pants to prevent exposure to skin.

- Depending on the chemical, it may be necessary to wear a mask or face protector to prevent inhaling chemical dust or liquid spraying and splashing.
- Wear chemical-resistant boots to prevent premature damage to footwear. Anti-icing and deicing chemicals can be corrosive, and porous materials and frequent exposure will deteriorate the footwear's structure and safety.

Transportation

- When transporting liquid chemicals, ensure chemical containers and tanks are secured, closed or capped, and have the appropriate identification markings on them for visibility to employees and others.
- Understand the transportation rules and regulations that specify capacity limits and qualifications for position drivers and operators.
- Depending on the equipment being used, chemicals may be loaded in the correct containers, bags or tanks attached to the equipment so long as it is secure and safe.