News Release...
Federal Trade Commission
Washington, D.C 20580

Federal Trade Commission Announces Enforcement Policy Regarding Deceptive Representations of Chemical Products used to Melt Snow and Ice.

(Excerpts from the release)

"The Federal Trade Commission has investigated reports of damage to concrete surfaces caused by chemical products marketed for use in melting snow and ice on sidewalks, driveways, and other concrete surfaces. Such products contain and rely on calcium chloride, ammonium sulphate, nitrates, or chemicals for their effectiveness."

"Although these products are often represented to be safe for use on concrete, it appears that their use may result in flaking and scaling of concrete surfaces to which they are applied…."

"Consumers should be alert to the possibilities that use of chemical products to melt snow and ice may cause damage to their concrete surfaces, contrary to the representations made for such products…"

"The Commission believes that each manufacturer and distributor of these products should carefully review its advertising, catalogs, labels and other media and media to determine whether it is complying with the guidelines set forth in the statement."

For more information, contact:

SDRMCA
or
YOUR LOCAL READY MIXED CONCRETE PRODUCER

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South Dakota Ready Mixed Concrete Association

TAKE CARE OF YOUR CONCRETE

USE OF DEICERS ON YOUR NEW DRIVEWAY, SIDEWALKS OR PATIO COULD BE HARMFUL.

USING DEICERS CAN CAUSE THIS:

OR THIS:

Both are examples of SCALING CONCRETE SURFACES

CAUTION!

You wouldn't use strong caustic chemicals and acids to clean the interior of your home or business! In fact, you're probably pretty careful about how you take care your place inside. So why not give the same consideration to your exterior? Your concrete sidewalks, driveways, patio, steps, porches, and parking lot can be expected to serve you well for many years with proper care. It's **quality** concrete, but don't abuse it.

- ALWAYS follow ACI practices for mix, installation, finishing and curing concrete. Improper installation techniques can reduce surface strength by 50%, increasing scaling.
- NEVER use deicing chemicals the first winter. The only safe material to use to make the concrete surface skid resistant is plain sand. Under usual conditions, deicers which contain sodium chloride (common salt) may be used sparingly after the first winter.
- NEVER use deicers containing ammonium sulphates, ammonium nitrates, calcium chlorides, magnesium chlorides, magnesium nitrates and magnesium acetates. These chemicals are often sold as deicers, but they will rapidly disintegrate your concrete.
- ALWAYS keep lawn, garden and commercial fertilizers off concrete surfaces. They contain similar chemicals known to cause rapid surface disintegration.
- Street snow removal efforts often contain chemical deicers. Snow clinging to the undersides of vehicles and plowed onto driveways may contain street deicers and should be removed immediately.

Things to REMEMBER!

1. **AVOID THE USE OF ALL DEICERS THE FIRST YEAR.**
2. **USE (PLAIN) SAND ANYTIME FOR TRACTION.**
3. **NEVER USE DEICERS WITH:**
   AMMONIUM SULPHATE,
   AMMONIUM NITRATE,
   CALCIUM CHLORIDE,
   MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE,
   MAGNESIUM ACETATE,
   or MAGNESIUM NITRATE.
4. **APPLY A CONCRETE SEALER.**