

Campus finds way to melt the ice – without melting our stuff

Walking across campus recently, you may have noticed a brown-colored material covering the roads and sidewalks. If so, then you've seen "Ice-B'Gone," a new, environmentally friendly de-icing product that SUNY Fredonia has chosen to use instead of traditional rock salt.

Ice-B'Gone is a combination of chloride salts and agriculture-based ingredients. It's biodegradable, which means it's less corrosive to our roads, cars and clothes. And it's also a lot friendlier for the environment.

What's more, Ice B'Gone works at lower temperatures than rock salt, which loses its effectiveness at just 18 to 20 degrees. Plus, it doesn't have to be mixed with sand either, as rock salt does in colder weather. So now, our sidewalks won't re-freeze as quickly, and we won't have to use as much of the product – which last winter amounted to more than 400 tons of rock salt.

All of this means added savings in labor costs as well. That's especially important for our campus, which has almost five miles of roads, 7 ½ miles of sidewalks and nearly 24 acres of parking lots that must be cleared after every snowfall. And having just lived through the coldest January on record since 1977, the timing couldn't be better to make the switch.

So say good-bye to rock salt... and say hello to our grounds maintenance crew the next time you see them. And thank them for finding yet another way to help SUNY Fredonia "go green!"

