

COMPARISON TABLE FOR WINTER	
SALT	SAND
Melts snow and ice	Can't melt snow and ice
Gives temporary traction	Gives temporary traction
Sharply reduces potential skidding period	Prolongs potential skidding period
Prevents bonding of ice and snow to pavement	Can't prevent bonding of ice and snow to pavement
Keeps snow mealy and plowable even when it's too cold for melting	Can freeze into snowpack or get covered by snow and become useless
Not as visible to motorists	More visible to motorists
Costs more to purchase	Costs less to purchase
Requires no mixing with other materials	Entails cost of mixing with some salt to prevent freezeup
Requires no cleanup	Clogs storm sewers, drains and ditches, thereby requiring costly and lengthy cleanup operations
Doesn't interfere with road drainage	Builds up on road shoulders and interferes with proper road drainage
Contributes to corrosion if vehicles and bridges are not properly maintained or bridges are not properly constructed	Contributes to corrosion by holding moisture and salt content
Does not damage paint or glass on vehicles	Pits windshields and chips paint when thrown about by vehicles wheels, exposing bare body metal to corrosion
Leaves road surface clear	Remains on road surface and can create ball-bearing effect on which wheels can skid after pavement is dry
Can damage some types of vegetation close to roads only when used in excess	Can smother roadside grasses when not cleaned up
Less costly in long run by requiring less material, plowing, equipment and manpower, and no cleanup	More costly in long run by requiring more material, plowing, equipment and manpower, plus extensive cleanup
More effective overall	Less effective overall

“STATE EQUIPMENT RATES”

Every year, the MaineDOT publishes “state rates” that the DOT uses in its work and many municipalities use for their local road work. The 2008 Rates are now available online or in paper format by request. The address is:

<http://www.state.me.us/mdot/community-programs/laborrates.php>

MaineDOT develops these annual rates in the interest of not having to negotiate every rental rate continually throughout the state. Many towns use them but it's important to understand that the rates are NOT developed for that purpose. Some towns use the state rates as a guide; others apply them exactly as they are shown on the schedule. The state rates are merely a guide for municipal officials and they are convenient to use. In no way does MaineDOT say that anyone has to use these rates for their purposes.