

Salting of Race Course

Introduce myself and background

- Alternates for urea Salt, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate
- Purpose is to save the race and make it as fair as possible for all participants

When should this be done?

- When snow is very soft and wet

Size of grain matters!

- small grain reacts faster, but do not penetrate as deep
- large grain reacts slower, but penetrates deeper, packs more energy, and takes 15-45 min to set.
- Can keep it hard for 5-6 hours depending on incoming weather
- The size of the grain will determine how fast and deep the freezing takes place.

When to apply it

- always throw a test patch off to the side somewhere
- when you can form a snowball and see water dripping when squeezing the snow-ball.
- Will not work if it lost its crystal structure what we call "sugar snow"
- VERY important to **SIDE SLIP ONLY** before applying.
- VERY important to throw the salt up into the air, not down.
- VERY important to stay off the surface while it sets up (15-45min).

Salt vs fertilizers

- Salt works with less water
- Fertilizers work better with more water
- Salt damages the crystal structure
- Fertilizers are less damaging to the crystal structure

Salting will likely not work in the following conditions:

- When the air temperature is at or below freezing
- When there is not enough water in the snow or on the snow surface
- When the snow is sugar snow
- If applied during the competition or while skiers are on the course Because the freezing process is disturbed
- In dry snow conditions
- While it is snowing
- In foggy conditions due to dry air moving in

IF IN DOUBT THROW A TEST PATCH.