



Snow & Ice Removal Fact Sheet

- The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) maintains a supply of rock salt primarily in KYTC district and county highway maintenance facilities across the state.
- The largest salt supply is located in The Mega Cavern, an underground facility in Louisville. It is currently stocked with 100,000 tons of salt and will serve as an emergency reserve for KYTC if the need arises.
- When salt supplies run low, the KYTC replenishes them from multiple contracted vendors.
- Brine is applied to the roadways before most winter weather events. The resulting salt residue is activated once precipitation falls.
- Brine makes the roadways safer in the early hours of a winter weather event by preventing the ice and snow from bonding to the road surface. As a result, the roadways are easier to clear.
- Brine is applied when the temperature of the road surface is at 20 degrees Fahrenheit and rising so as to not create a hazard.
- In low temperatures, a calcium chloride solution is added to salt application to help melt snow and ice.

The following table details salt, brine and calcium chloride use:

Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Rock Salt (tons)	440,100	289,111	252,800	64,400	242,249	142,539	46,000
Brine Solution (gallons)	1,925,000	2,424,259	913,300	1,044,255	686,278	2,023,614	226,100
Calcium Chloride Solution (gallons)	1,546,000	973,601	904,000	231,300	808,468	474,835	116,502

- The KYTC's vehicle and equipment fleet includes 1,024 plow trucks and four tow-plows. In addition, the cabinet can call on 400 contracted snowplow trucks to assist with snow and ice removal.
- KYTC is responsible for more than 63,000 lane miles of roads.

KYTC maintenance crews totaling nearly 2,000 employees will work to keep roadways open in the winter. The following table lists maintenance amounts budgeted and actual snow and ice removal costs for the previous fiscal years:

Maintenance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Budget*	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000
Snow and Ice Removal Costs (actual)**	\$75,232,921	\$66,701,894	\$58,529,000	\$28,570,000	56,024,311	\$43,982,699	\$26,825,771

*Amount budgeted for overtime, materials, and contracts only.

**Costs include regular salaries and state equipment charges.

Motorists encountering any road hazard (e.g., potholes, debris in the roadway, large animal carcasses) may report them to the Transportation Operations Center (TOC) by calling 877-FOR KYTC (367-5982).

For real-time information on roadway weather conditions, visit <http://goky.ky.gov>.

