



## Guidance for Using IWLA Salt Kits

There have been some questions about the timing for sampling with the Winter Salt Watch test strip kits from the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA).

After talking with IWLA, here is the recommended protocol:

- The reading for the first test strip can be any time (from 4 hours, 1 day, 3 days...) before road salting/brining for an upcoming snow or wintry mix storm event. This first test strip is to establish a winter baseline reading at your site, i.e., the stream's salinity level on an average, non-storm day.
- The reading for the second test strip should be taken after road salt or brine has been applied, which can be before, during, or immediately after the storm - whatever is safest for you.
- The reading for the third test strip should be taken on the first "melt" day (above 32F) or rain day after the storm.
- The reading for the fourth and last test strip in the kit should be taken on the next melt or rain day after the storm. Please note that the third and fourth readings may several days after the event, e.g., if a cold front moves in after a storm.

Please remember to add the tags [#sligocreek](#) and [#fosc](#) to your report on Water Reporter.

It is not crucial for everyone participating in the Winter SaltWatch program to be sampling at exactly the same time. So please just use your best judgment as you sample with your test strips and report the results on Water Reporter, making sure that you sample when it is safe to do so.

The FOSC water quality team will try to put a time-stamped note up on the Road Salt Initiatives page if we know that road salting/brining has begun in the Sligo Creek watershed, and on subsequent melt or rain days, as a way to help you time your sampling.

**Thanks again for your help with this new program!** Please let us know if you have any questions along the way. Reach us at the [waterquality@fosc.org](mailto:waterquality@fosc.org) or the [wq@fosc.org](mailto:wq@fosc.org) email address - both reach us quickly.