



Salt

During winter in the UK when the weather gets cold the Councils spread salt on the roads.

Why would adding salt to the roads be a good thing for motorists in winter?

Maybe this experiment will help you work out the answer.

Equipment

- ice cube tray
- tap water
- salt
- freezer

Experiment

1. Dissolve salt in some of the tap water.
2. Fill half of the ice cube tray with this water (remember to mark which side has the salty water).
3. Fill the remainder of the tray with water straight from the tap.
4. Put the tray in the freezer (or if it's cold outside put the tray outside on a window ledge) and leave for a couple of hours.

What do you notice?

The salty tap water has not frozen.

Why is salt added to roads in winter?

Salt is added so that any water on the roads will not freeze at low temperatures. If the water did freeze on the roads this would cause ice which would make the roads slippery (think of walking over frozen puddles) which is dangerous and could cause accidents.