



Highway Maintenance Manual
Chapter 06 Winter Maintenance
Section 20 Snow Removal Materials
Subject 40 Equipment - General

Bureau of Highway Maintenance
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1.0 Equipment, General

Wisconsin is dedicated to researching ways to better manage and improve efficiency of winter maintenance. Past efforts have focused on computerized spreader controls with the ability to provide several materials application settings and the ability to record and print out the amount of material used vs. distance traveled within a recorded time frame. Other efforts have focused on assuring that service providers have the ability to pre-wet materials. Research has proven that prewetted materials are faster acting and stay on the pavement longer, resulting in a net saving of material used. Other efforts include the concept vehicle research project, whereby new snowplow technologies are tested in eight locations around the state and the winter initiative anti-icing program. Current technologies being tested are liquid only de-icing, TowPlows, the Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS), and Automatic Vehicle Location – Global Positioning Satellite (AVL/GPS).

The unique partnership between the counties and the department enables the ongoing evaluation and research into new equipment, materials, and techniques. Counties and other service providers are encouraged to experiment with new equipment, materials, and techniques in cooperation with the regions and central office bureau of highway maintenance. Experiences learned in these trials can then be shared with other counties or service providers.