



How to Remove Ice Melt Residue/Stains

The problem

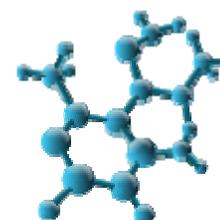
Ice melting compounds are used extensively in winter months at the entrances of buildings to insure the safety of employees and customers. As people enter a building, the ice melting compounds are tracked-in onto carpets and hard floors creating challenges in cleaning.



Ice Melter Chemistry

Ice melters are water soluble compounds that dissolve into water, thereby reducing the freezing point of the resulting water solution. Pure water freezes at 32 °F. The most common ice melt compound is Calcium Chloride, known for being fast acting and working at the lowest temperatures.

| Ice Melt Compound | Freezing Point of Water Solution °F |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sodium Chloride (Table Salt, Rock Salt, NaCl) | 15 °F |
| Urea (Fertilizer) | 20 °F |
| Ammonium Sulfate (Fertilizer) | 20 °F |
| Magnesium Chloride (MgCl ₂) | 5 °F |
| Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) | 15 °F |
| Potassium Acetate | 15 °F |
| Calcium Chloride (CaCl₂) | -20 °F |



Use Your Knowledge to Remove Stubborn Ice Melt Residues

That white residue left behind from tracked in ice melt is a compound called Calcium Carbonate. This is also the principle compound that we refer to as 'hard water residue' or 'lime scale' that creates cleaning challenges in restrooms (i.e. toilet bowl rings, dull fixtures, crusty buildup on faucets, etc). Experienced cleaners know that using a cleaner with an acidic pH removes lime scale. We can apply the same knowledge about pH when we remove ice melt residues. **CAUTION:** Do not use toilet bowl cleaners or other harsh acidic products on carpet or hard floors. Use only products where it specifically states safe for carpets and hard floors.



For a better understanding of pH and how it impacts cleaning, read the [Power of pH](#)



Use this Procedure to Remove Stubborn Spots:

Carpet:

1. Dilute **Back to 7** at a rate of 4 oz /gal of water.
2. Apply to area using a pump up sprayer or trigger sprayer.
3. Work in using a spotting brush.
4. Let stand for 5-10 minutes, lightly agitate with brush.
5. Re-apply more **Back to 7**, then extract or blot out stain.

Hard Floors

1. For removing stubborn white stains on hard floors, dilute at 4 oz/gal of water.
 2. Apply to affected area and let stand for 1-2 minutes. Then pick up or rinse away solution. See below for daily use directions.
- NOTE: DO not use **Back to 7** on marble floors or on polished concrete floors.



Multi-Clean **Back to 7** is an acidic neutralizer that can be used for ice melt residue removal. Safe for use on carpet and most hard floors.

[Click to see Back to 7 Spec Sheet](#)

Prevention Tips

1. **Use good quality walk off matting that includes a combination of wipe and scraper matting.** Use at least 15 feet of walk off matting at entries. In winter months, consider using additional matting to keep floors dry.
2. **Use Back to 7 daily to help prevention of ice melter deposits on hard floors.** In entry areas where ice melter tracking is likely to occur, mop floors regularly with **Back to 7**. For daily mopping of finished or other hard floors, dilute **Back to 7** at 1 oz / gal of water and mop floors as usual.
3. **Maintain entrances outside the building:** Using ice melts are a necessity. Keeping areas outside just before entering a building as clean and ice free as possible helps to prevent ice melter tracking.

