

2014 Third Place – Brine Making Totes: Pennsylvania

CONTACT:

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PROBLEM STATEMENT:

This municipality, like many across Pennsylvania, wanted to apply brine to their winter maintenance program but did not have funds to purchase the necessary equipment.

SOLUTION:

The Public Works Director, Robert Reimer, contacted a neighboring municipality, who had been doing this for a couple of years. That municipality purchased the spray set-up along with a brine maker. Robert, along with his highway crew, had to find a way to make the brine and apply it at minimal cost. They came up with an idea to use palletized totes to make, apply and store the brine. The highway crew took about a day to cut the totes, drill the holes and install the pipe and valves along with the wooden hopper.

LABOR/MATERIALS/COST:

\$300 - for spray bar with hose, solenoid valve and cam-lock fittings \$150 - brine making tote \$90 - application tote \$540 in total costs.

SAVINGS/BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:

Savings are abundant as a manufactured system can cost up to \$20,000. Savings for salt increase with each weather event: the first salting would take about 12-16 tons of salt for our streets. With brine it takes about one ton of salt.

