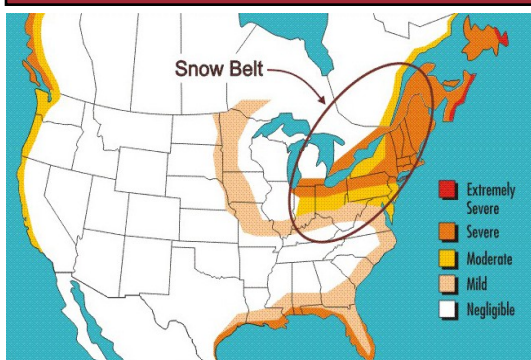


# Effects of salt on the building envelope

## Winter is here

Aluminum can provide excellent corrosion resistance in many applications, but salts (i.e. chlorides) break down this material's protective oxide film, causing corrosion. When aluminum corrodes, it is through pitting, rather than uniform surface corrosion, producing a white to grayish white powder. The white to grayish white color of aluminum corrosion may not bring attention to the problem until permanent aesthetic damage has been done.



*Above is a corrosivity map of North America showing the particular aggressiveness of the Snowbelt region.<sup>1</sup>*

## Preventing deicing salt corrosion

Deicing salt corrosion can cause unexpected problems that are easy to avoid. **For aluminum to perform well in these environments, regular maintenance cleaning is needed to remove deicing salts and corrosive deposits.** This is necessary to protect all metals and concrete. Prevent build up next to buildings and look for where salt water may pool instead of drain.

<sup>1</sup>Information obtained from <http://corrosion-doctors.org/Corrosion-Atmospheric/Deicing-salts-corrosion.htm>