



CASE STUDY: Unalaska / Aleutian Islands, Alaska

Unalaska is located on Unalaska Island in the Aleutian Islands, off of mainland Alaska. The city's population is approximately 4,500. Based on volume of fish caught, the island's fisheries port is the largest in the United States.

Problem: Because of Unalaska's extremely cold climate, the municipality uses the granule form of a product called "Ice Melt" to eliminate ice build up and freeze thaw damage to its concrete sidewalks. Unalaska also uses the less expensive and more traditional rock salt products to the same end. However, Ice Melt and rock salt are damaging to concrete sidewalks, so in order to protect the sidewalks, the concrete must be completely sealed. Without this sealant the concrete will begin to spall. Eventually the sidewalks corrode and decompose to the point where they need to be replaced. However, sealing concrete sidewalks is expensive and time consuming.

Solution: To eliminate the need for sealing, Unalaska installed 1,000 square feet of Rubbersidewalks™ at the Unalaska Community Center. Nearly five years later, the Rubbersidewalks™ remain in good condition; neither the Ice Melt nor the rock salt has caused any corrosive damage.



The photo to the left depicts the Rubbersidewalks™ installation at the Unalaska Community Center. It is the most extreme example of a cold weather installation. After almost five years, the application is highly successful and has no damage as a result of the use of both Ice Melt and rock salt. The photo to the right is a close up shot.

"The Rubbersidewalks™ installation reflects our commitment to the environment. It is much easier to maintain than concrete sidewalks. The pavers have survived nearly five years of the most severe temperatures possible and continue to look good."

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