



**Baltimore Woods  
Nature Center**  
*Nature in your hands*

# Ice Chromatography

With a winter wonderland outside there's opportunity to engage your senses and conduct hands on experiments to better understand the science of the season.

For this fun activity let's explore how we keep our roads safe during the winter by conducting an experiment that shows us how salt is a good tool for melting ice.

## Materials:

- Table salt
- Food Coloring
- A cup (plastic, paper, or metal)



## Experiment Steps:

1. Fill your cup with water and either put it in the freezer or leave outside to freeze completely.
2. Using warm running water, dislodge your ice block from the cup.
3. Sprinkle salt on the top of the ice block and wait about 1 min.
4. Place 1-2 drops of food coloring on top of the ice block and watch as the beautiful colors follow the path of the melting salt!