

SPRING ICE SAFETY TIPS

Rotting Ice?

Ice rots in the spring. What does it look like? Rotting ice begins to look grey and splotchy. Stay off ice if you see:

- **Water on it**
- **Slush**
- **Cracks/holes**
- **Grey/dirty veins**

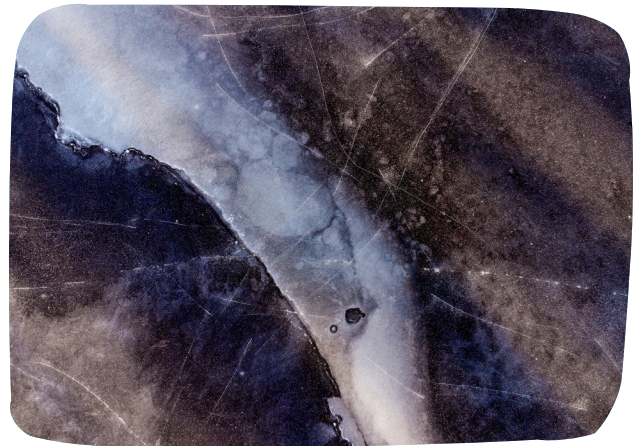
Clear blue or green ice is the minimum standard for new and strong ice. White ice has air or snow in it and shouldn't be considered strong.

Even thick ice may be weak after being frozen and thawed repeatedly, and it may contain layers of snow or water, weakening it more.

Spring Ice is Rotten Ice!

Fast Facts

- Once ice starts to rot, the thickness cannot be used to determine if the ice is safe, even if it looks solid
- Ice can erode from the bottom up, with no obvious warning signs on top
- After any warm spell, 40cm (1.3 ft) of ice may suddenly crumble
- You should check with local authorities, such as community services, if the ice is safe to be on or around



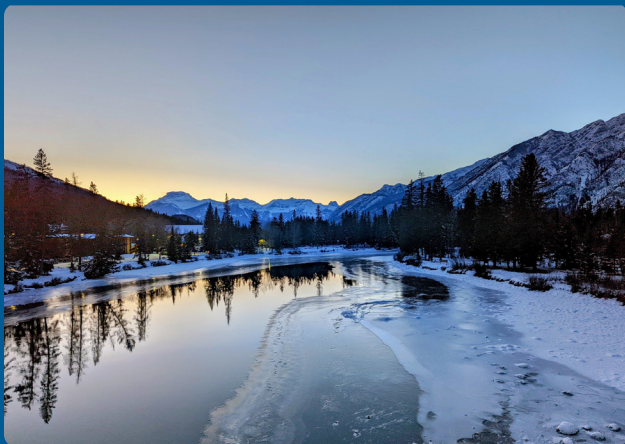


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Water Smart Facts

Understanding the factors that cause ice to melt can help you to make safer choices about being on or around the ice at all times of the year.

In spring, ice is exposed to several weakening factors at a time, making spring ice the most unpredictable ice!



What Causes Ice to Melt?

These ice-melting factors always present a risk, but you should be extra cautious in spring:

- Warm weather, especially over many days
- Saline run-off from roads and melting snow dumps can create 'hot spots' that weaken the ice
- Ice near shore melts more quickly
- Tree stumps, rocks, and docks absorb heat from the sun, causing the ice around them to melt
- Snow acts like an insulating blanket; ice beneath snow will be thinner and weaker
- The 'veins' from minerals in the water melt faster than the rest of the ice (a process called candling); candling causes vertical channels which weaken the ice