

ACCUBRINE™
AUTOMATED BRINE MAKER



Automation Improves Brine Production Process

AccuBrine™ Automated Brine Maker Works for Fayetteville, New York, and Possibly the Entire State.

Making brine in a homemade contraption wasn't cutting it for Jim Crow, Superintendent of Public Works for the Village of Fayetteville, New York. Crow knew there had to be a solution that could achieve more consistent results with less hassle. He also hoped it might save his department money.

Turns out, Crow's instincts were correct. While attending an APWA show, Crow came across the AccuBrine™ automated brine maker from Cargill Deicing Technology. After evaluating other brine making options at the show and online, Crow came to the well-researched conclusion that the AccuBrine™ system was the only one that could meet his needs.

"Before getting the AccuBrine™ system, we sort of eyeballed our brine formulas, using general calculations for adding hot mixes or determining salinity. With the AccuBrine™ system, there's no guessing. It delivers consistent brine, with precise mixtures. In fact, the AccuBrine™ system has reduced the amount of additives we go through each season," said Crow.

As of 2008, Fayetteville has been using the AccuBrine™ system for two years. Last year alone they made in excess of 100,000 gallons. Why such a large amount for a small village? Fayetteville is being used as a test model for all of New York. Along with fulfilling its own brine needs, Fayetteville is also providing brine to the New York Department of Transportation for regional deicing efforts on interstate highways. "We're happy to be well ahead of the brine curve," added Crow.

Among the many unique aspects of the Fayetteville brine program is their water supply which comes from a naturally salinized well. Because of this, the AccuBrine™ system only needs to add about 5% salinity to the brine mix. However, at times the well water's salinity can be higher than needed. In these cases the AccuBrine™ system is actually used to "water" down the salt content to achieve the desired salinity level for the brine.

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Paramount to Craw when selecting the AccuBrine™ was the automated logging and “true computer operation” of the AccuBrine™ system. Craw mentions, “having a digital controller opens many opportunities for us. We’re actually in the process of an upgrade that will allow us to use RFID chips right at the brine tank to record how much brine each truck is using. Since the state D.O.T. and others use our brine, tracking quantities for billing is very important.”

While it has never been exactly calculated, Craw estimates that the AccuBrine™ system has cut his department’s costs by 5% to 7%, “or quite possibly even more. In work-hours alone we’ve saved a lot. The automated process is a big time saver, as is the washout. Before we’d have to climb in the thing with a power sprayer, now it’s done in no time,” Craw said.

For the time being, Fayetteville has no plans to expand the scale of their brine program. However, since they are serving as a brine pilot program for New York, Craw expects the use and acceptance of brine to grow immensely across the state in the upcoming years.

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