

Tips for Successful Ice Sledding

- Ice blocking or ice sledding is somewhat like snow sledding: you need the right conditions for it to work well. The **outdoor temperature**, the **slope of the hill**, and the **surface of the grass** all make a difference. **Hills with steep slopes and with short, smooth grass surfaces work best.** The warmer the outside temperature, the better the ice melts – making the ice blocks more slippery and allowing the sled to travel faster. (On the negative side, warmer temperatures mean that you won't be able to get as many runs in before the ice is gone.) Temperatures above 25C (or 78 degrees F) work best; but as long as temperatures are above freezing, you can successfully ice sled. However, in cooler temperatures, steep slopes and smooth, short grass are even more critical. Without them, you might find yourself going nowhere; but under the right conditions, you can expect to go as fast on grass as sledding on packed snow.
- When filling the Icers™ with water, make sure to **keep the containers level** as possible and **try not to overfill** them – just barely cover the honeycomb grid with water. If you do overfill the Icers™ or place them in the freezer at an angle, chances are the resulting ice block will be too thick and will be difficult to attach to the bottom of the sled (without first chipping some ice away). Furthermore, the Icer™ containers are not watertight, so overfilling them or not keeping them level will likely result in water spilling out of the container and making a bit of a mess. Allow enough time – between 24 and 48 hours depending on the freezer temperature, for the ice to freeze solid before attempting to go ice sledding. With moderate temperatures and use, it is possible to sled for up to an hour before the ice is gone. To extend your sledding fun – especially during the warm summer months, you can order additional Icers™ through the retailer where you purchased the SLICER™ or through this website.
- Unlike snow sledding, where the SLICER's™ runners keep the sled pointed straight as it travels down the hill and allow it to be steered somewhat by leaning, there is virtually no control with ice sledding. When ice sledding there is no ability to steer, and the SLICER™ may spin around (like a snow saucer) when traveling down the hill. That adds to the excitement of ice sledding, but does contribute to spills and wipeouts, which is something to consider – particularly for younger children, for whom the selection of gentler slopes (and slower speeds) is an important consideration.
- Finally, and most importantly, remember that **sledding is a dangerous activity** – whether it be sledding on snow or ice sledding on grass. Be sure to **follow the safety precautions** permanently marked on the inside back of the sled (and on the large removable label).

