

## STORMWATER TIPS FOR WINTER



Stormwater runoff is a major contributor to the pollution of our streams, rivers, lakes. It is important to be mindful of what goes down your local storm drains all year around. It's important to implement stormwater management all year round, because snowmelt is also stormwater runoff. Here are some great stormwater management tips for winter.

- ❄️ Road salt and other deicers can damage metal and concrete, contaminate drinking water, damage roadside vegetation, and accumulate in streams, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater harming aquatic plants and animals. Studies show that, even in relatively rural areas, road salt is accumulating in our waterways. Since it can take decades for road salt to flush out of a watershed, an increase in concentrations of salt may be seen even after its use has stopped.
- ❄️ Road salt only works if the temperature is above 15 degrees F.
- ❄️ Sand and kitty litter are effective alternatives for traction but can clog storm drains and degrade stream habitat when washed away, so please be mindful of where you use it! Cracked corn is an environmentally-friendly alternative.
- ❄️ All deicers will melt the ice, but some have less of an impact on the environment. Instead of sodium chloride (salt) or calcium chloride, use products containing an acetate, potassium chloride, or magnesium chloride.
- ❄️ Do not apply deicer or salt if it's going to rain, since it will just wash into our water ways.
- ❄️ A 12-oz cup of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares.
- ❄️ More salt does not mean more melting!
- ❄️ Salt works best when applied before a snowfall or after shoveling/plowing.
- ❄️ Don't apply a deicer or salt on top of snow. Shovel the area, and then apply it. The more scraping and removal of ice that you can do, the less deicer you will need to use. Deicer works best on a thin layer of ice.
- ❄️ Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity to infiltrate into the ground but in areas where water does not pond.
- ❄️ Do not pile snow on top of storm drains or near water bodies and wetlands. Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.
- ❄️ Deicers can be harmful to your health, your sidewalk, your lawn and your pets. Don't use too much of it, and sweep it up after the ice has thawed.
- ❄️ Erect barriers, such as temporary plastic fencing, to protect salt-sensitive plants and storm drains.



*Did you know?*

1 teaspoon of road salt can pollute 5 gallons of water.