

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 49: December 14, 2021



STORMWATER TIPS

LEAVES

Most trees have dropped their leaves by now, but it is important to continue to clean up leaves on and around your property but be sure not to cover any storm drains!

Raking leaves into the street creates more pollution of local streams and waterways. Not only do leaves contribute to stream pollution, they can cause localized flooding if they clog storm drains and pipes. Help protect nearby waterways from excess nutrients and never rake leaves into the street.

VEHICLES

As you're winterizing your vehicles, make sure to check for and fix fluid leaks. Even a small amount of oil that drips on the pavement can pollute thousands of gallons of water. Also make sure to properly dispose of antifreeze and never dump it on the ground or down a storm drain.

If you need help on disposing of hazardous waste you can call the WV DEP at 304-558-5938



ICE AND SNOW

Stormwater runoff is not just rainwater; it is also ice and snow melt. Once snow starts it's a good idea to start shoveling early! The more snow you remove, the less deicer, salt and/or sand you'll need put down.

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, in streets, or near water bodies and wetlands. Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.

More salt does not equal more melting snow, follow product instructions when spreading deicing material and give it time to work. Sweep up any material remaining after the snow/ice melts.

When temperatures hit 15° F or below, salt is not effective. Consider using traction materials that contain an acetate, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, or cracked dried corn instead of sand or kitty litter.

And remember, one teaspoon of road salt can pollute 5 gallons of water.