environmental group

Stormwater Tips



Salt and Snow

Each winter, ice and snow-melting salts are used to clear roadways and sidewalks. This same road salt is then washed away when the snow melts and enters storm drains, where it remains in our rivers and lakes. Excess salt in our freshwater ecosystems cannot be removed, is toxic to wildlife, and can cause corrosive damage to public infrastructure.

We Need Your Help To:

- Shovel and scrape away as much snow and ice as possible from your pavement first so that the salt/deicer can work effectively.
- Measure out your salt and scatter it broadly; one 12-ounce coffee cup of salt will melt a 20-foot driveway or 10 squares of sidewalk. If extra salt is still visible on dry pavement, sweep up and reuse it to save money and reduce pollution.
- If the outside temperature is less than 15 degrees Fahrenheit, use sand or bird seed instead for traction. Most deicing products will not clear ice below this threshold.

To learn more about stormwater, go to your district or college's webpage and search for the Storm Water Management Plan

