

What You Can Do to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution at Home - Winter Pollution Prevention Practices -

Do employ these simple practices during winter weather to prevent ‘stormwater pollution’ -- (Stormwater pollution is a major cause of water pollution in our urban and suburban streams.)

- 🗑️ **Shovel snow first** to remove it from paved surfaces, like driveways and sidewalks, before applying snow melt and deicing products.
- 🗑️ **Pile shoveled snow downslope** of paved surfaces to help prevent icy and slippery conditions on pavement as snow melts and refreezes.
- 🗑️ **Shovel snow onto lawn** and vegetated areas where melting snow can soak into the ground.
- 🗑️ **Limit the use of deicing chemicals and products** on sidewalks and driveways since they can readily flow into storm drains and streams as ice melts. When deicing products that contain salt and other constituents, dissolve, they seep into ground water and flow into streams where they can impair water quality, diminish soil fertility, damage plants, and harm aquatic life.
- 🗑️ **Use environmentally-friendly alternatives**, such as clean clay cat litter, sand, or fireplace/stove ash, to avoid the need for products that can have damaging impacts and be harmful to the environment.
- 🗑️ **Take a ‘Snow Day’** -- work at home or postpone errands on snow days avoiding trips on the road to help your community clear roads safely, possibly limiting the need for excessive road salting and deicing.
- 🗑️ **Sweep up after snowmelt** -- Sweep and dispose of residual sand, grit, and litter to help prevent accumulation in streets and roadside ditches; clogged storm drains and culverts; and sediment pollution in streams.
- 🗑️ **Keep gutters and drainage pathways clear** and free of debris to prevent snowmelt from backing up and forming ice in places where you want runoff to flow freely.
- 🗑️ **Direct, or route, snowmelt runoff into nearby gardens** and vegetated areas before applying salt and deicing products.

Fish Friendly Fact

When possible, avoid and limit use of products outdoors that contain chloride (Cl) (including salt) since Cl quickly dissolves and is readily transported by runoff into storm drains and streams and can soak into the ground and diminish groundwater quality. Cl is a pollutant in fresh water streams, rivers and lakes where fresh water fish and aquatic organisms are not adapted to salty, or saline, conditions.