

HAVE A SAFE WINTER SEASON WHILE PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION



Snow and ice on roads, parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks can create hazardous conditions for people and property. Environmentally, snow and ice removal is best done with plows and shovels rather than chemical treatment. However, given severe winter weather, the results are not always sufficient when safety is in mind. The use of chemical ice melting solutions such as road salt and sand is often a necessary solution to combating freezing precipitation. Here are some practices that can minimize the negative effects of chemical use this winter.

EFFECTS OF SAND AND SALT

Even in small quantities, salt can:

- Deplete the oxygen supply needed by aquatic animals and plants;
- Leach into the ground and change soil composition, making it hard for plants to survive;
- Contaminate groundwater and surface waters
- Deteriorate paved surfaces and infrastructures

Similarly, sand can:

- Bury the aquatic floor life, fill in habitats, and cloud the water;
- Cause premature deterioration of floor surfaces as it is tracked into buildings;
- Lose its effectiveness after becoming embedded in snow and ice;
- Enter catch basins, storm drains, and surface waters if it is not swept up each spring; and,
- Contribute to clogged storm drains, which can cause flooding.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Snow & Ice Removal: Attempt to remove snow by hand through shoveling or snow blowing. Apply salt only if necessary.

Salt Application: Follow the instructions on the package and use only enough to break the ice/pavement bond. Do not throw down salt near waterways.

Sand Application: Use only enough to provide traction on slippery areas. Sweep up excess sand after snow has melted.

Snow & Ice Disposal: Do not dispose of snow & ice in wetlands, creeks, harbors, or other waterways or directly on top of storm drains.

information provided by Port Jefferson's Stormwater Management Program

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