

FACT SHEET: Fall and Winter Stormwater Tips

It is important to control stormwater pollution year-round and stay vigilant in protecting our local waterways.

FALL STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

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.



Leaves can be a great source of nutrients for your property, so consider mulching them into fertilizer for your yard or garden. However, a decaying mat of leaves on your lawn can expose it to mold and disease. If your lawn is covered with more than 50 percent of decaying leaves, consider bagging or composting leaves, rather than mulching.

WINTER STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Start shoveling early! The more snow you remove, the less salt and sand you'll need. Below are some dos and don'ts when shoveling or plowing snow.



Normal snow accumulation does not pose a threat to rain gardens, so there is no need to shovel a rain garden. However, heavy snow loads can weigh down and saturate your garden and hurt plants. Pile snow uphill from the rain garden so when the snow melts the rain garden can do what it is designed to do.

DO

- ▶ Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity to infiltrate into the ground.
- ▶ Pile snow in areas where water does not pond.
- ▶ Clear away any snow that may have been thrown onto the storm drains.

DON'T

- ▶ Do not pile snow on top of storm drains or near water bodies and wetlands.
- ▶ Do not pile snow onto rain gardens or bioretention areas.

TIPS TO AVOID USING SALT AS A DEICER

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 corneal instead of sand or kitty litter.

WE CAN HELP!

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Pay close attention to places that may have eroded during the snow melt. Plan to improve these areas in the spring by using native grasses, meadow plants, or native trees and shrubs.