

Winter Storm Water Pollution Solutions



With colder weather right around the corner, water pollution prevention is very critical. Winter brings with it unique and significant pollution concerns to our lakes and rivers. Because the ground will be frozen over the next few months, it acts like a hard surface similar to asphalt or concrete. It no longer has the ability to act like a natural filter.

Pollutants accumulate in snow banks and ice all winter long. Once the snow melts, all the grime, grit, dirt, road salt, and other pollutants are washed into our storm water systems, rivers, and lakes. It's important that we take steps to reduce the amount of potential pollution sources during the winter months.

Be good to the environment and remember these suggestions for reducing your winter impact on our streams and lakes:

- **Be stingy with your salt application and consider alternative salting methods.** Road salt can be harmful to plants, aquatic life and drinking water supplies. Salt alternatives like potassium acetate (KA), calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), or sand are less damaging to homes and landscaping and can be used to de-ice and improve traction on a walkway or driveway. If you do apply salt, shovel first and apply as little as possible.
- **Rethink rinsing your garage floor.** While it's tempting to take out the hose and wash that ugly, gray sludge and salt off your car and out of your garage on a mild winter day- please stop! Residue left from road salt, oil, gas, and other road pollutants drips from your car and ends up on the garage floor. The water will end up into our streams. Take your car to a commercial car wash. A clean car means a cleaner garage!
- **Watch your waste.** Picking up pet waste is just as important in the wintertime as it is in the warmer months. Animal waste can be a significant source of harmful bacteria and disease.

Help to keep our streams wonderful even in the winter! To report an illicit discharge to the storm water collection system or to a stream, creek or river, call the Lower Salford Township Municipal Building at 215-256-8087.

