

# Snow Removal

Keeping streets safe and rivers clean

**Clean white snow can lead to dirty, polluted water**

Snow may just be frozen water, but during snow melt and removal, snow can become contaminated and harmful to lakes, rivers and streams. Following simple steps for removal and disposal can help keep toxic chemicals, sediment, oil, nutrients and litter out of local waters.



## Proper Snow Removal

- Plow snow to lands that drain to a detention basin
- Use sites less likely to be visited by people
- Use sites with fine grain soils instead of cohesive (clay) soils
- When in doubt, talk to your local Department of Natural Resources representative who can help determine a good location for piling snow

**When snow is melting, be observant and remove debris and litter from the area before it is washed away.**



## Improper Snow Removal

- Never pile or dump snow into an open or frozen natural body of water, like a river, stream or pond
- Do not dump in wetlands or flood plains
- Do not pile on steep slopes
- Avoid playgrounds, ballparks and parking lots

## Salt Storage: Don't let your material wash away

- Road salt must be stored on an impermeable surface
- Road salt must be securely covered year-round
- Maintain the storage building to prevent salt from being exposed to wind rain and snow



Salt stores must be covered year-round.

## For planners and municipal staff: Snow management policy

When making snow removal decisions, look at alternative practices such as:

- De-icing alternatives – chemicals that are less harmful to fish such as GeoMelt and calcium chloride
- Truck sensors that measure the amount of sand and salt being applied
- Applying sand and salt more frequently, but in smaller amounts

These alternatives can not only reduce stormwater pollution, but can also save money by using less salt and sand while producing the same road clearing benefits.

### Resources

WDOT Trans 277 for salt storage: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/rules/salt-storage.htm>

WDNR snow treatment and disposal guidance for municipalities:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/pdf/stormwater/snow.pdf>

For the complete Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stormwater Management and Technical Standards, go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/stormwater>

Visit [www.cleanwaterbrightfuture.org](http://www.cleanwaterbrightfuture.org) for more information, resources and tips.



Information is provided by the Rock River Stormwater Group. *Clean Water. Bright Future.* is a public campaign to encourage homeowners, businesses and communities to protect our region's waterways.