

Lower Allen Township's

# Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

December 2022 Edition



## Check the Temperature

When the temperature is lower than 15 degrees skip the salt. Salt works by lowering the freezing temperature so ice crystals cannot form. Traditional salt will only work when temperatures are above 15 degrees. Consider alternatives such as Calcium Chloride or even sand for traction on sidewalks and driveways.

## Sweep It Up!

After a snow or ice event, sweep up leftover ice melt granules to eliminate the possibility of salt being washed into stormwater drains. Just a teaspoon of salt in 5 gallons of water can alter an ecosystem and cause harm to fish and other aquatic plants and animals.

## Slow Down & Use Less

When winter travel is necessary slow down. Reducing your speed on wet or icy roads can lessen the likelihood of an accident. One pound of de-icer is all that is needed to clear a 20-foot driveway or 10 squares on a sidewalk or 250 square feet. That is the equivalent to one heaping coffee mug!

## Winter Ice Maintenance

**In a few short weeks winter weather will be in Central Pennsylvania.**

Pennsylvania waterways do not take a break from collecting runoff during the winter season. Runoff from driveways and sidewalks contain increased sodium from the ice melt that is used to create safe travels. The increase in sodium in the runoff ends up in Pennsylvania waterways. Salt is the biggest pollutant of waterways during the winter months in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Residents can use alternative measures to reduce the amount of salt used. Consider the following suggestions to reduce the use of salt. Some local municipalities are experimenting on alternative sources to pretreat roads before snow and ice events. What can you do as an alternative to excessive ice melt or Sodium Chloride use on your property?