

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

January 2026 Edition



Road Salt Limits

Recently, citizen scientists have been studying road salt concentrations in waterways before and after winter snow events. Volunteers across the state and across the country are monitoring conductivity and turbidity in local waterways to understand how road salt affects the ecosystems Waters of the Commonwealth.

In January 2025 the Pennsylvania Road Salt Action Plan group was formed. This group works together from various backgrounds to establish rules for road salt usage and goals to assist communities in establishing their own Best Management Practices surrounding road salt.

Who's Responsible?

In Pennsylvania, chloride concentrations in watersheds can be traced back to many responsible parties. The largest source; approximately 50%, is from parking lots, many of which are serviced by private contractors. The next largest sectors are from municipal roads with 27% and state roads with 9%, respectively.

What is Being Done?

Lower Allen Township works to reduce road salt applications on roadways through the use of brine. Brine is a solution of 23% salt and water that is mixed on site at the Public Works Department. Brining can prevent snow from bonding to pavement which allows for easier plowing.

