



**What is Stormwater?** *Stormwater* is water that originates from precipitation, including not only rain, but snow and hail as well. This water collects on the grass and pavement and eventually finds its way to a body of water or a drain. During its travel, stormwater will pick up chemicals from fuel and salt on the road, in addition to common yard practices of fertilizer and weed killer use. The federal government has tasked each state, and therefore county and township, to control just how much of these substances enter our environment and lower the levels as much as possible.

## Spotlight Topic: Winter Stormwater Tips

*Keep yourself safe & help the environment!*

Stormwater runoff and prevention is not as obvious in the winter, but this issue of the newsletter will give you some helpful tips to keep your property clear.

- Start shoveling early: working in shifts during a storm will keep the load lighter, ice accumulation low and you will use less salt
- Use de-icing products sparingly: follow the instructions on the container; more salt does not mean more ice melted and some products may be less effective under 15°F. De-icer will not wash away, it builds up in our waterways and kills wildlife
- Try to pile snow on pervious areas such as grass. This will give melting snow a chance to absorb into the ground as opposed to running away. Do NOT pile snow onto rain gardens or bioretention
- Try to clear off nearby storm drains to help reduce flooding as the snow melts
- If you have a rain barrel, drain, and store it or cover it with a tarp and leave to spigot open to allow water to drain. It is also a good time to clear debris from filters. If you have a downspout diverter, you will need to bypass the barrel and allow water to drain through the downspout



Check out our HUB page for more Stormwater information & activities!  
<https://stormwater-swatara.hub.arcgis.com/>

