



Storm Water Tips for Winter

Since winter is just around the corner...it's not too early to think about environmentally friendly ways to control ice.

Traction Agents help prevent slipping on ice, but don't melt it. Sand, kitty litter and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers and degrade aquatic habitats. Cracked corn has been suggested as an alternative because animals can eat it before it gets washed into the storm sewers in the spring.

Deicers lower the melting point of ice to help remove ice and snow from pavement. Sodium chloride (rock salt) is the most common product because it's effective and cheap. However, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging.

Some deicers are significant sources of phosphorus pollution. Look for products that contain 50 parts per million or less of phosphorous. Always apply deicing products according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Using the old fashioned approach of a shovel and a flat hoe means eliminating ice and snow without harmful chemicals and with the added benefit of physical exercise.

To Contact BASWA with any questions or comments call the Bay County Drain Commissioner at (989) 895-4290

More Tips to Keep Your Rivers, Lakes and Streams Clean

- ✓ Never dump anything down a storm drain
- ✓ Use an oil pan when changing oil to keep fluids off the pavement. Check local body shops and quick lubes to find a place to appropriately dispose of used oil
- ✓ Dispose of pet wastes in a trash can
- ✓ Leave grass clippings on your lawn as an alternate nutrient to fertilizer. If fertilizer is necessary, choose a slow release product and test your soil to find out how much fertilizer your lawn actually needs
- ✓ Wash your car on your lawn so excess water chemicals and dirt is filtered through the lawn.
- ✓ Keep household hazardous wastes, such as harsh cleaners, paint, car fluids and batteries from entering lakes and streams by disposing at a household hazardous waste center. Try using environmentally safe alternatives or recipes with non-hazardous ingredients
- ✓ Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up grass clipping and dirt
- ✓ Keep a trash bag in your car...and use it!

We each contribute to the problem.
We each need to contribute
to the solution.