

Ice Prevention

Did you know salt is a large contributor of chloride contamination in local waterbodies? Follow these tips to minimize contaminated runoff from leaving your property:

- Store salt under cover to protect it from precipitation.
- Hire a certified Green SnowPro applicator to complete your snow removal.
- Ensure proper calibration of salt distributing equipment.
- Practice anti-icing to prevent ice from sticking to pavement.
- Prewet deicing agents to allow for more concentrated application zones and less salt use.

Want more information about
hiring a Green SnoPro certified
contractor? Scan Here



Proper Storage of Materials

Properly stored materials is essential in helping prevent unnecessary spills and discharge of material to storm drains. Make sure to cover all areas where materials are stored to prevent precipitation from mixing with materials and causing contaminated runoff.

Waste Disposal

Cover any on site dumpsters and check regularly for leaks or spills. Do not store dumpsters directly over or in close proximity to any storm drain structures and do not throw away hazardous waste.

Pool Draining

It is important to remain conscious about water quality impacts when draining a pool. Follow the below tips to mitigate potential harmful impacts due to improperly disposed of water:

- Dechlorinate the water and bring pH to neutral (6–8). Test water before draining to ensure there is no chlorine or other chemicals present.
- Drain pool slowly and on to vegetated area to allow for soil to act as a natural filter.
- Do not discharge pool water to a storm drain, surface water, or wetlands.

About Us

The Town of Windham is committed to improving water quality, but we can't do it without your help! Every small change in behavior can make a big change in water quality and preserve our resources for many years to come.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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Windham, NH



Stormwater Guidance for Businesses

Landscaping

Leaves and Grass Clippings

Leaves and grass clippings can be a significant contributor of contamination when not disposed of properly.

When these materials get into waterways and decay, they can cause low oxygen levels in the water that is needed to sustain other organisms and can cause excessive nutrients in the water leading to harmful algal blooms. Additionally, piling these materials on natural vegetation can smother it and limit food and cover for other organisms that rely on it.

It is very important to properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings away from wetlands, waterways, waterbodies, and any storm drain structures that will convey the materials into downstream waterbodies.

Fertilizer

Runoff from fertilized grass can negatively impact water quality.

This can cause excessive nutrients in downstream waterbodies, potentially leading to algal blooms which depletes the oxygen in the water many organisms need to survive.

What can you do?

- Select low maintenance grass seed.
- Do not overwater— whatever does not get absorbed by the grass will cause contaminated runoff.
- Mow grass 3” or higher to encourage stronger grass roots.
- If fertilizer must be used, use low or no phosphorus varieties.

Building Maintenance

- Cover and contain housekeeping operations to prevent chemicals from entering storm drains.
- Clean up any spills immediately.
- Do not allow runoff from pressure washing or cleaning paint brushes to reach storm drains.

Vehicle Maintenance

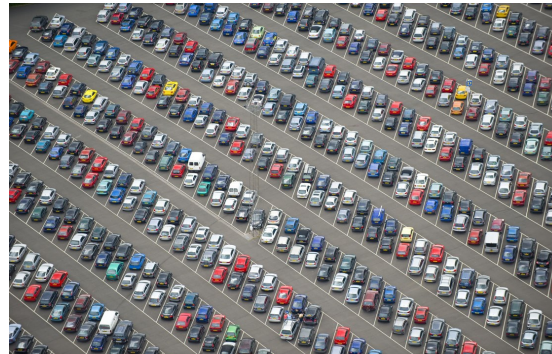
Washing and performing maintenance on cars on paved surfaces can cause soap chemicals, metals, and oils to enter the drainage system where it is discharged into local waterbodies. When washing cars, direct excess water toward grass or gravel (avoiding drains) and use biodegradable soap to limit the amount of harmful chemicals discharged. Work on cars in a maintained and covered area.

Management of Parking Lot Surfaces

It is important to take extra care when maintaining impervious parking lot surfaces. Runoff does not have a chance to absorb into the ground, therefore concentrated contamination is able to get into nearby storm drain structures and waterways.

Try these helpful tips when maintaining your parking lot:

- Sweep parking lot regularly and properly dispose of debris.
- Plant greenery around parking lot to allow for better runoff absorption.
- Install vegetated filter strips to aid in the slowing of runoff and removal of sediment and pollutants.



On-Site Filtration Benefits

- Runoff receives treatment, to help filter out chemicals, bacteria, and debris.
- Helps preserve water quality, aquatic habitat, and organisms.
- Slows down runoff—reducing erosion.

Management Techniques

- Direct water to more permeable areas.
- Detain water to allow for infiltration.
- Collect rainwater in rain barrels to use for landscaping.
- Install pervious walkways.
- Keep up with maintenance activities such as mowing and inspections. It is especially important to inspect facilities post rain-storm to check for any leaking materials or equipment.

For more helpful management techniques, please visit the webpage for *Soak up the Rain New Hampshire* at:

<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/SoakNH/>

Or scan here:

