



THINK BLUE
MASSACHUSETTS

Melt Wisely: Stormwater-Safe Snow Practices

Snow and ice management isn't just about safety—it's also a key part of protecting local water quality. When salt and deicers wash into storm drains, they carry pollutants into nearby streams, rivers, and lakes. Commercial properties play a major role in minimizing this impact.

By updating your snow and ice removal practices, you can help reduce runoff pollution and stay in compliance with local stormwater regulations.



- ✓ **Shovel early and often**—clearing snow manually reduces the need for chemicals.
- ✓ **Apply salt and deicers sparingly** and only where needed. It will help save money in the long run too!
- ✓ **Use alternatives** or environmentally safe deicers when possible.

**The Cold Truth: Deicing
Impacts Our Waterways**

Learn more online:
ThinkBlueMA.org



BMPs for Snow & Ice Removal

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO'S

- Shovel first. Clear walkways and parking lots before salting to reduce how much is needed and boost effectiveness.
- Track usage. Ask your team or contractor to log salt and deicer application rates to reduce runoff and protect water quality.
- Store safely. Keep salt and deicers covered and away from drains, catch basins, and open water to prevent pollution.
- Sweep excess. After the storm, clean up leftover salt or sand to keep it out of storm drains and waterways.
- Train smart. Ensure your crew is trained in stormwater-safe snow practices through programs like Smart Salting or SIMA certification.

DON'TS

- Don't salt before clearing snow. Salt works best on bare pavement—shovel or plow first.
- Don't apply during rain or slush. Salt can wash away or be ineffective below 15°F.
- Don't over-salt. More isn't better—excess salt pollutes without improving safety.
- Don't store salt near drains. Keep piles covered and away from runoff-prone areas.
- Don't ignore puddles. Melting areas can carry pollutants into storm drains.
- Don't pile snow near drains. Snowmelt can overload systems and carry contaminants.

***Think Blue Means
Clean Water for You!***

Learn more online:
ThinkBlueMA.org

