

CITY OF LA PORTE MS4 PROGRAM

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Winter Tips: A Homeowner's Guide

Winter weather can bring challenges for managing water runoff. Properly handling runoff is essential to prevent property damage, erosion and environment pollution. With a little preparation, you can protect your home and contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

To start, ensure your gutters and downspouts are clean and free of debris. Blocked gutters can cause water to overflow, leading to ice dams and water pooling near your home's foundation. Extend downspouts at least 6 feet away from your house to prevent seepage.

In addition to home maintenance, take steps to reduce runoff pollution. Use materials like gravel or pavers for driveways and walkways, which allow water to seep into the ground. Plant native vegetation to help absorb excess water and filter contaminants. Taking these measures will help protect your property and support local waterways.

Sensible Salting

HOW MUCH SALT SHOULD BE USED

- Shovel first. Clear all snow before it turns to ice.
- Spreading salt does not improve de-icing. If you see salt on the ground after the snow and ice clears, you are using too much.
- 12 ounces of salt is enough to cover roughly 10 sidewalk squares or a 20 ft long driveway.
- There should be approximately 3 inches between salt granules.





Auto Maintenance

Maintaining your vehicle during winter is not just about ensuring safe driving conditions, it also plays a critical role in protecting water quality. As snow melts, they carry pollutants from vehicles, such as oil, antifreeze and road salt, into storm drains. A little attention to your car can help reduce its environmental footprint while keeping it in top condition.

Start by addressing leaks and fluid levels. Fixing leaks promptly not only prevents issues, but keeps harmful substances out of stormwater. Additionally, always be mindful when topping off or changing fluid. Always dispose of used fluid correctly.

Protect Your Pipes: Managing FOG In Winter

The holiday season often brings hearty meals, but the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) generated in the kitchen can cause significant plumbing and environmental problems if not handled properly. In winter, the risks are even higher as colder temperatures cause FOG to solidify more quickly leading to clogged pipes and sewer backups. A few mindful practices can help keep your home's plumbing and local waterways safe.

- NEVER pour FOG down the drain.
- Let FOG cool and solidify in a container then dispose of it in the trash.
- For smaller amounts, wipe greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- If you use a garbage disposal remember that it does not prevent grease-related clogs.



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