

CITY OF LA PORTE MS4 PROGRAM

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Stormwater Winter Preparedness

While you are making your list (and checking it twice), be sure to include your preventative stormwater maintenance ahead of winter weather as a priority on your to-do list.

Preparing stormwater systems before the temperature shifts is essential because once the ground freezes and snow begins to fall, the frozen conditions can hinder infiltration.

Preparations should begin when water temps consistently fall below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The melting period in early spring is when many preventable stormwater system failures occur.

Lets look at a few things you can do to help prevent those failures.





Support Established Vegetation

Your winter checklist should include preparation for established vegetation to support plants throughout their dormancy. Adding extra mulch around plant bases protects against erosion, suppresses weed growth and protects the plants from frost and moisture loss.

This is also a good time to evaluate systems for dead or dying vegetation. Weakened vegetation can be easily dislodged and washed away during winter storms and spring time runoffs, leaving systems at risk of clogs. Remove impaired vegetation during winter preparation to allow for supplemental plantings to occur.

Reduce Sand, Salt and Chemical Use

Deicing treatments are utilized throughout winter to keep roads clear of ice and increase driver safety. However, overuse of deicers can lead to waterway degradation in local communities. Clear all snow before it turns to ice and only use salt in areas needed for safety. 12 ounces of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20 foot long driveway.

Be Careful Where You Plow

Keep your systems requirements in mind when managing snow removal. Permeable pavement should never be plowed as the soft porous material could be damaged or clogged. Do not pile snow into stormwater systems or vegetation (rain gardens). This may clog systems and damage vegetation due to the high concentration of pollutants.



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