



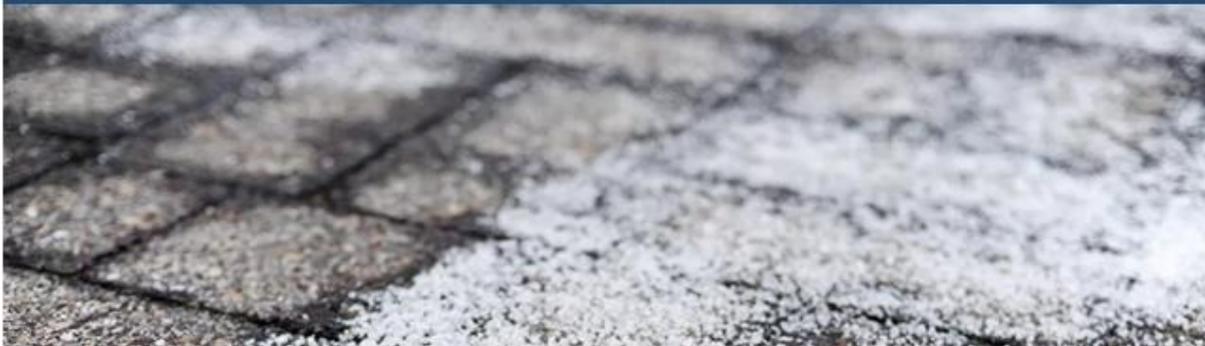
## Winter Property Maintenance Tips for Devens Residents and Businesses

Did you know that stormwater pollution can happen in the winter too? As a resident or business owner, you are responsible for all pollutants that leave your property. By following these tips, you can help keep our waterways clean and healthy:

**Tip #1:** During the winter, it is important to keep your catch basins, rain gardens, biofiltration basins, grass-lined swales and other stormwater management infrastructure free and clear of excess snow to ensure they will properly function.

**Tip #2:** When treating driveways, parking lots and sidewalks with deicing materials, consider environmentally friendly alternatives to sodium chloride and follow these steps to maximize effectiveness and minimize waste:

- **Buy the right blend.** Having a product that best suits your climatic conditions and average low temps, you'll need to use less of it.
- **Keep walkways shoveled** in the first place as snow quickly becomes ice when walked upon.
- **Pre-treat walkways** before the storm hits. You'll need less deicer in the long run.
- **Mix sand with salt** — you'll use less to melt ice, and gain the traction
- **Store ice-melt products in airtight containers** to maintain maximum effectiveness



**Tip #3:** Store all de-icing materials in a dry, enclosed area that does not drain outside.

**Tip #4:** Calibrate deicing application equipment to confirm minimum and maximum material flow rates. Calibration should be performed pre-season and mid-season at a minimum. Recalibration should also be performed any time a repair or other change is made to this equipment.

**Tip #5:** Replace asphalt driveways and concrete walkways with permeable surfaces. Permeable pavements allow water to drain through surfaces and prevents standing water – thereby reducing the need for de-icing agents. Permeable pavement is not subject to damage caused by the freeze/thaw cycle which avoids costly repairs.

Following these tips will help to save you money and ensure that the snow and water that drains off your property is clean.

Questions? Contact the Devens Enterprise Commission at: 978.772.8831 or [neilangus@devensec.com](mailto:neilangus@devensec.com)

Business owners can do their part to keep Massachusetts' waterways clean.

Find more tips like these at [www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org](http://www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org).

