



Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor

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*A Publication of the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office
Janis A. Bobrin, Drain Commissioner*

In This Month's eMonitor

Up Front:	Welcome to the Community Partners Monthly eMonitor
Topic of the Month:	Deicers
Tip of the Moth:	Winterize your vehicles
CPCS News:	Meet the new intern
CPCS News:	Biannual Recognition Ad in Ann Arbor News!

Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep Partners updated on CPCS and stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Deicers

Deicers Can Harm Water Quality

Winter brings with it the inevitable snow, ice and freezing rain that make commuting by car and on foot a potentially dangerous activity. The use of deicers is essential to make everyday activities safer for motorists and pedestrians. Often times, deicers are applied excessively, resulting in increased costs for homeowners and municipalities. These costs come in the form of excess product use, damages to infrastructure, vegetation and the environment.



The most common and inexpensive deicer is sodium chloride (NaCl), otherwise known as common table salt. NaCl is known to damage the environment by polluting water ways, harming vegetation and contaminating drinking water. Salt also corrodes buildings, concrete, vehicles and bridges.

Even stored deicers can enter the environment before they ever have an opportunity to melt ice! One study showed that 5% of the 8 million tons of deicer used each year in this nation alone are lost from uncovered stockpiles (B.N. Lord, 1988). That amounts to more than 400,000 tons of deicer lost due to improper storage facilities. It is important to choose the proper deicer for your needs, use and store it correctly.



Deicer Tips to Have a Safe Winter and Protect Water Quality

- ❶ Check your deicer reserves to help determine the amount needed for the season before you purchase. Only buy what you need to minimize waste.
- ❷ Purchase the type of deicer best suited to your needs. Consider such attributes as temperature thresholds, application methods, concentration, type of use and how much you require.
- ❸ Calibrate spreading equipment before each application so the proper amount is deposited on the intended surface.
- ❹ On hilly terrain, concentrate deicer on the top of the hill, the excess will flow downhill.
- ❺ Sweep up excess deicer when it has done its job. It can be reused at a later date.
- ❻ Remove as much snow and ice as possible before spreading deicer for utmost effectiveness.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tip of the Month



Winter Vehicle Maintenance for Clean Waterways

Keep it clean!

Wash your car at a commercial facility with proper drainage to remove corrosive deicer and other winter grime. This will ensure the wastewater is properly treated, and your car will last longer! Don't forget to use biodegradable soaps whenever possible.

Got leaks?

Be sure your car is working correctly and has no leaks. Leaks not only signal problems with your car, but also contaminate waterways when auto fluids are washed down storm drains. Perform all scheduled maintenance on your vehicles and be aware of any problems and leaks. Also remember to pack a road side emergency kit and warm blankets in your vehicles in case of car problems or accident in the cold weather.

CPCS News

Meet the Intern

The Drain Commissioner's Office would like to welcome our newest Environmental Planning Intern, Vicki Kalkirtz. Originally from the Chicago area, she is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's of Science in Environment and Natural Resources. Her focus was in Planning and Policy, with two minors, one in Geology and the other in Forest Resources. She is currently in the process of applying for graduate school at the University of Michigan with plans to study Environmental Justice and Urban Planning.

Please feel free to contact Vicki with any questions about Community Partners for Clean Streams, water quality issues, or any other assistance you may require. You may contact her by phone at 734-222-6813, or email at kalkirtz@ewashtenaw.org.



[CPCS News](#)

Recognition Advertisement in The Ann Arbor News

Did you see the Community Partners for Clean Streams Recognition Advertisement in the Sunday, December 18th issue of the Ann Arbor news? It had the most current list of businesses, institutions and municipalities that are participating in the program. If you missed it and would like to see who else is protecting water quality in your community, contact us for a copy of the ad.



New Partners

We would also like to welcome our new partners for their commitment to protect Washtenaw County's waterways.

*Ann Arbor Charter Township
Pittsfield Township*

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Community Partners for Clean Streams

705 N. Zeeb Road, PO Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

Michelle J. Bononi, Environmental Planner (734) 222 – 6833 bononim@ewashtenaw.org
Or

Vicki Kalkirtz, Environmental Planning Intern (734) 222 – 6813
kalkirtz@ewashtenaw.org

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_cpcs.html

