



# STORMWATER BMP MAINTENANCE NEWSLETTER



## Wonderful winter!

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

— John Steinbeck

## Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Pet Waste Management Program

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is working on reducing bacteria levels in our local rivers and streams. We are collaborating with homeowner associations, educating the community, and installing pet waste stations in common areas managed by the homeowner associations.

Since December 2014, about 14,077 pounds of waste has been collected through this program. Imagine that – more than 7 tons of poop!

We are recruiting Homeowner Associations to join the program and are looking for the following criteria:

- Located in the Anacostia, Rock Creek, and Cabin John watersheds of Montgomery County (Contact us to find out if your HOA is located in one of the targeted areas)
- Do not have a pet waste management program
- Interested in having a pet waste management program

Eligible HOAs will receive:

- Onsite evaluation
- Outreach materials
- Depending on the extent of the issue, a certain number (to be decided with the HOA) of pet waste stations. The stations will be maintained up to a year. All for free!
- At the end of the year, the HOA can decide to adopt the stations by taking over the maintenance.

To learn more about the program, eligibility criteria, and to find out if your community is located in one of the targeted areas, please contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-7778 or [ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov).





### Important Information for Winter Care of Pervious Concrete:

Last week saw the first threat of snow and we all were busy salting, brining, and getting plows ready. But now you may be taking care of pervious concrete parking lots or sidewalks, instead of the old-fashioned concrete and asphalt we're all accustomed to. Did you know there is some very specific guidance to protect pervious concrete, and damage that can be caused by the use of salt? Please share this information with all your property managers and crew members, to

prevent costly repairs to these stormwater management practices.

#### What you should know about pervious surfaces:

Pervious surfaces have some roughness, like a dirt road, and are not used on steep slopes or high speed roads, so skidding is less of a concern. The ground beneath the pervious pavement, which is filled with aggregate, is less susceptible to freezing, meaning melting water will go through the pavement even in cold temperatures. As soon as the sun hits the surface or air temperatures warm, remaining snow will melt right through the surface, rather than freeze and cause icing.

#### What you should NEVER do on pervious concrete:

- Never use anti-icing pre-treatments, deicers containing magnesium chloride, calcium magnesium acetate or potassium acetate, fertilizer ingredients such as ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate. These salts can damage the pervious concrete, and cause it to fall apart—something nobody wants. You could also void warranties and guarantees from the installer.
- Pervious concrete should never be used as a storage area to pile snow from other areas. The snow that has been plowed from other surfaces may be full of debris and salts that will clog or damage the pervious concrete voids. Also prevent salts from adjacent surfaces from running on to the pervious concrete by keeping back a few feet with applications.

#### What you CAN do on pervious pavements:

- You can blow snow off, or use a rubber tipped blade or lift metal blades on rollers or shoes when plowing to prevent damage to the surface. Avoid front end loaders or skid loaders because their use can cause damage.
- You can use coarse sand (minimum 1/8"), or small crushed aggregate (1/4 – 10, or similar gradation), and the sand could be impregnated with calcium chloride (after the first year) as an anti-skid material with the understanding that vacuum cleaning must be performed after the winter season to remove the sand. Fine sands such as masonry sand or play sand should NEVER be used on pervious concrete pavements!

If you have icing or puddling of water on your pervious concrete after following all this guidance, [contact DEP](#) or the concrete installer to help diagnose the problem.

#### General Winter Maintenance Tips

- Consider marking stormdrain inlet locations to inform plow contractors of their existence. It is not uncommon for snow plows to hit and damage inlets - thereby costing property owners unnecessary repair expenses. DEP only maintains transferred stormwater facilities— DEP does not maintain private stormdrain pipes or inlets.
- Don't allow plowing of snow into stormwater facilities or in front of stormdrain inlets. Large piles of snow, sand, and road grit can actually block the flow of runoff and cause flooding in roads. In addition to blocking stormdrains, when snow piles melt, they leach salt and road grit into stormwater facilities and our streams.