A-40: Street Deicing Operations

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to deicing and anti-icing operations on streets and highways to control ice and snow.

Required BMPs

- Select deicers and anti-icing materials such as sand, calcium chloride, magnesium acetate, potassium acetate, or similar materials that cause less adverse environmental impact than urea, and sodium chloride.
- Apply de/anti-icing materials only as needed, using minimum quantities. Adhere to manufacturer and industry standards of use and application.
- Store de/anti-icing materials (except for sand) in an impervious containment area to keep the material from entering stormwater drainage systems or surface waters. Maintain sand piles so that sand cannot wash into the stormwater drainage system or surface waters.
- Transfer liquid de/anti-icing materials in the containment area or use a drip pan under the hose connection.
- Sweep/clean up accumulated de/anti-icing materials and grit from roads as soon as possible after the road surfaces clear.
- Minimize use of de/anti-icing materials in areas where runoff or spray from the roadway immediately enters sensitive areas such as fish-bearing streams.

Supplemental BMPs

- Intensify roadway cleaning in early spring to help remove particulates from road surfaces.
- When feasible, use de/anti-icing materials with low amounts of metals.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: oxygen demanding substances, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-4: Outdoor Storage of Soil, Sand and Other Erodible Materials

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.