



# Parking Area Management

Parking lots and garages require frequent maintenance including sweeping, litter removal, degreasing, resealing, repainting and pothole repair. Unfortunately many of these activities may be significant sources of pollutants that degrade water quality if precautions are not taken.

Oil, gas, antifreeze, metals and other vehicle-related materials end up on parking lots and driveways as a result of leaks, spills, and vehicle wear. Other pollutants include accumulated grit and sediment from traffic, as well as winter sand, salt and deicing chemical applications.

## TO PREVENT WATER POLLUTION

- Sweep or vacuum parking areas regularly. Parking lot sweeping material should not be directed into a storm drain.
- Pick up litter, especially near storm drains.
- Place a sufficient number of trash and recycling receptacles in convenient areas to discourage littering.
- Routinely service these receptacles.
- Avoid pressure washing parking surfaces. If pressure washing occurs, use water only and, when practical, direct wash water to vegetated areas. Install absorbent booms at storm drains and remove and dispose of accumulated sand, grit and litter in a trash receptacle.
- Avoid using toxic cleaners or solvents to clean parking areas.
- For spot cleaning, cleaners and solvents should be used sparingly, absorbed and directed away from storm drains.
- Limit the amount of sand, salt and deicing chemicals used. Conduct surface repairs, resurfacing or resealing during dry weather conditions.
- Label storm drains at your business to make employees and customers aware that storm drains flow to local streams and dumping is not permitted.
- Post signs in parking areas prohibiting vehicle maintenance and washing in parking lots.



### TROUBLED WATERS

Everything that goes into our storm drains eventually flows into our streams and rivers. Pollutants including heavy metals, pesticides and other toxic chemicals may accumulate in fish and shellfish.



### DO YOU KNOW?

Fairfax County maintains approximately 1,500 miles of storm drain pipes that carry stormwater to Fairfax streams and to the Potomac River.



## SNOW REMOVAL MANAGEMENT

Bulk deicer material should be stored in large covered bins during snow season. Materials should be moved to permanent storage sites at the end of the snow season. Storage areas should be contained and material should not have contact with stormwater runoff that would enter a storm drain.

Businesses or contracted snow removal companies should be equipped with tools to handle deicer material spills. Minor spills can be handled by manually redistributing the material on the paved areas as evenly as possible using hand tools or by shoveling it back into the spreader. If the spill occurs near a storm drain, the material should be pushed and piled away from the drain on the down slope side. Deicing equipment should be washed in a wash bay or area where wash water drains to the sanitary sewer. Wash water should not be allowed to enter the storm drain system.

Snow, whether treated or not, should be pushed away from buildings, into open grassy or wooded areas if possible. Areas to be avoided include those in the drainage path of yard inlets or tree filter boxes when feasible. Every reasonable effort should be taken to keep storm drain inlets and stormwater facilities free of packed snow. Should any of them be impacted due to heavy snowfall or piling, they should be cleared as soon as possible.



Snow should be pushed away from buildings, into open grassy or wooded areas if possible.



Every reasonable effort should be taken to keep storm drain inlets and stormwater facilities free of packed snow.



Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Stormwater Planning Division  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, VA 22035-0052  
703-324-5500, TTY 711 / SWPDmail@fairfaxcounty.gov  
To request this information in an alternate format call 703-324-5500,  
TTY 711. A Fairfax County, VA., publication April 2018