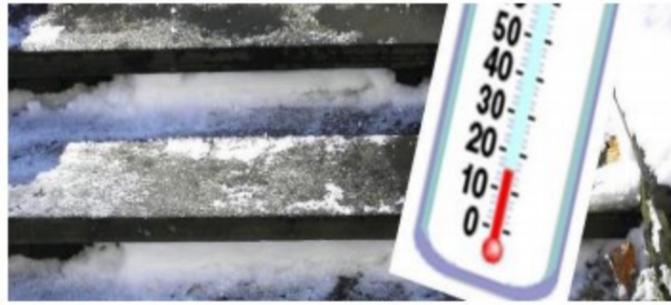


This Winter... ...use the Right S.A.L.T.



STUFF

Road salt (sodium chloride) only works above 15°F. For colder temperatures use a small amount of sand for added traction, or switch to an ice melting product designed to work at colder temperatures.



AMOUNT

Spreading more salt does not improve deicing. One 12 ounce coffee cup full of salt is enough to cover about 10 sidewalk squares. There should be about 3 inches between salt granules. Be sure to sweep up any excess salt.



LOCATION

Salt only belongs on your sidewalk and driveway and never on your lawn, flower beds, the base of a tree and definitely not in a stream! One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water.



TIME

Salt works best when it is applied before the snow falls or right after snow is removed from your driveway or sidewalk. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, as it will wash away into the storm drain and out to our waterways.

Source: Cuyahoga SWCD

The Greenville Storm

Fall 2019

Farm Safety Day Held for Greenville 1st Graders



In November, the Greenville FFA held a farm and safety awareness day at the Darke County Fairgrounds for first graders at Greenville City Schools. The Darke SWCD office presented on water quality to the students. The presentation used an inflatable pool which was polluted. The students were asked to clean the polluted water with the tools provided, after the time was up, the students were asked if they would drink the water that they cleaned. The point of the lesson was that cleaning polluted water is a tedious and expensive task. If we as residents of the City of Greenville are aware of pollution sources to our stormwater system, we can lessen that load and keep our streams and water courses clean. Stormwater awareness is an important topic for all ages to discuss.



This newsletter is for residents of the city of Greenville dedicated to reducing storm water



Prepare Your Rain Barrel for Winter

A rain barrel is a great way to conserve ground water and potentially reduce your water bill. It is important to winterize your rain barrel so it will last for years. Tips for winterizing your rain barrel:

- Unhook and empty your rain barrel
- Clean out any debris that has collected in the bottom
- If possible, store your rain barrel indoors
- If you store it outdoors, store it on its side with the spigot up in the air. Secure it so it doesn't blow away.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Christmas season is fast approaching! Here are some Christmas tree safety tips from the National Fire Prevention Association.

- Make sure artificial trees are labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- When choosing a fresh cut Christmas tree, choose one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Prior to placing the tree, cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, including fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing lab. Some lights are for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.



- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Connect no more than three strands of mini lights and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw in bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Christmas Tree Recycling

December 26, 2019 through January 18, 2020

From our friends at Darke County Solid Waste District:

Recycle your live Christmas Tree for "FREE". Trees will be shredded at the Darke County Parks Prairie Preserve on St. Rt. 502 just outside of Greenville. The shredded tree mulch will be used on nature trails throughout the park district.. A huge THANK YOU to the Darke

Did you know?

A little water can add up to a lot of snow. The air doesn't need to be super moist to produce impressive amounts of snow. Unlike rainfall, a bank of fluffy snow contains a lot of air. That's why an inch of rain in the summer equals about 10 inches of snow in the colder



Control Stormwater Pollutants this Winter

Controlling stormwater pollution is a year-round concern, one that matters in winter just as much as spring and summer. When the temperature drops, vast amounts of deicing chemicals are dumped by the truckload across our roads, sidewalks and driveways. With each thaw, all that salt washes directly into our waterways. Freezing temperatures also lead to broken pipes, which can lead to erosion issues or even raw sewage pouring into our streams.



- **Avoid using sodium chloride as a deicer:** Commonly used road salts like sodium chloride (also known as halite) can kill plants, break down concrete, and stain carpets. More environmentally friendly alternatives to sodium chloride are acetates, potassium chloride, or magnesium chloride.
- **Don't pile snow on your rain garden:** Though your plants are dormant, heavy snow loads, upon melting could saturate your garden for long enough to potentially hurt your plants. Normal snow accumulation does not pose a problem, though so there is no need to shovel the garden. Pile your snow from elsewhere on the uphill side of the rain garden instead so that when it melts your rain garden can filter it.



they also "breathe" more than impervious surfaces like asphalt and concrete, so they take longer to ice over.

- **Go pervious:** Replacing your walkway or driveway with river stone, pervious pavers or other porous materials will allow water to soak into the ground instead of becoming runoff. These surfaces not only help reduce polluted stormwater runoff and erosion,

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