

Proper Use of Salt and Deicers



After the snow and ice have melted away, the salt and deicing agents used to treat roads and sidewalks remain. On average, the equivalent of 137 pounds of salt

per person is used to melt ice each winter in the U.S. These products flow over driveways, sidewalks and roads and go into the nearest stormwater basin. Once there, they go directly into our waterways, untreated.

The problem with salt, sand and deicer in our water:

Salt in our water is not good for plants, wildlife or people. Birds can mistake salt crystals for food, and it can be toxic to fish and others in aquatic systems. Salt is not good for plants, and in many wetlands, salt-tolerant invasives are crowding out native vegetation. This can lead to a loss of food source for local wildlife. An increase of salt in reservoirs can also impact drinking water.

Sand has been used as an additive to salt or as an alternative, but it is not effective in providing traction on slippery surfaces and it clogs catch basins and causes flooding. It can also carry other pollutants into our waterways. If used, excess sand should be swept up.

A deicing agent is a preferable alternative to both salt and sand, but it is still not perfect. These products contain sodium or potassium acetate and calcium magnesium acetate, which are less abrasive than salt, but are also pollutants in large quantities.

What can you do to keep your pavement safe while also keeping our water clean?

- Use deicer (sodium acetate, potassium acetate, and calcium magnesium acetate) instead of salt (sodium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride).
- Shovel early and often. Remove as much snow and ice as you can, and only use deicer on what you can't take care of with a shovel.
- Follow product instructions and only use as much deicer as you need. More is not better and can actually cause partial melting and then re-freezing if applied on top of snow and ice, making conditions worse.

For wet snow or sleet and freezing rain, apply deicer product before it starts to snow to prevent snow and ice from bonding with pavement.

Snowplowing

Before we know it, winter will be upon us. Winter brings the potential for snow; homeowners can assist the Public Works Department to provide an improved level of service by observing the following guidelines:



- Do not park vehicles on the street until the street has been completely cleared off. In most cases, trucks will plow the street two separate times. The first time will be to clear an access to the primary roads, and the second pass will push the snow back to the edge of the street.
- Wait until the street is plowed before clearing driveway openings.
- Never shovel snow out into the streets.
- Shovel out fire hydrants if they are located on your property.
- Motorists should be aware of Township vehicles salting or plowing snow. Motorists should not interfere or impede the plow in any way.
- Remove the snow or ice from your sidewalk within 12 hours after the cessation of any fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain.
- Make sure mailboxes are properly secured.

The Difference Between Sewer & Storm Drains

Sewer Drains (wastewater) Sewer Drains are a system of underground pipes that carry sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, & other plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant where it is filtered, treated and discharged.



Storm Drains (stormwater) Storm Drains are a system designed to carry rainfall runoff. It is not designed to carry sewage or accept hazardous wastes. The runoff is carried in underground pipes or open ditches and discharges untreated into local streams, rivers and other surface water bodies. Storm drain inlets are typically found along curbs and low-lying areas. Never dump debris into or near a storm drain.



Storm drains lead directly to local waters. No filters. No treatment. Pollutants that enter storm drains wind up in the water we drink, fish and swim.



Residential Recycling

In Warwick Township, each person who owns or occupies a residential dwelling or multi-family dwelling is required to recycle. Residents may either arrange for collection of these materials by a permitted hauler, or take them to a Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority facility.

The Recycling Myth

A common misconception people have about recycling is they think it means placing items in their recycling bin as often and as much as possible. However, recycling is actually a system of collecting and processing used materials that still have value, in order to transform them into new products. This means not everything is recyclable. And just because a product has a recycling symbol on the bottom does not mean it's recyclable. So, why is it important to debunk the recycling myth? Though most of us are well-intentioned, when we put materials in the bin that don't belong, we're actually contaminating the recycling stream, which negatively impacts our environment and economy. We need your help to recycle right!

What Can Be Recycled?

Only the following materials can be recycled. Think of them as the "Big 4". Everything else should be placed in your trash. If you aren't sure, remember this phrase: "When in doubt, throw it out!" Lancaster County has an advanced waste-to-energy process that converts these materials into renewable energy!



Other materials:

The website <https://earth911.com/> provides a comprehensive search of what materials can be recycled and where. Simply enter the material you want to recycle and your zip code, and they will provide a listing of available recycling centers.

Warwick Township Volunteer Information

We are fortunate to live in a region where residents volunteer their time and talents to serve the community and assist in local planning efforts. We encourage adults of all ages and diversities to volunteer to serve on the Township's various committees to share their ideas and help shape our community's future.

Warwick Township residents have an opportunity to serve on a variety of Boards and Commissions that serve our community. These include the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, and Municipal Authority Board, that meet monthly. In addition, several committees meet quarterly, including the Recreation Advisory Committee, as well as the subcommittees that serve the Joint Strategic Plan, which are the Coordinating Committee, Built & Natural Infrastructure, and Housing & Economic Development. The Lititz Run Watershed Alliance and Warwick Regional Recreation Commission are two other regional committees that include representation for Warwick Township.

If you wish to volunteer to serve on any of these committees, please send an email to townshipmanager@warwicktownship.org. While we may not have an opening on any given committee at any given time, this information will be retained in our records for future reference.

Joint Strategic Plan Update

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, beginning in 2023, Lititz Borough, Elizabeth Township and Warwick Township will begin working on the update to the region's Joint Strategic Comprehensive Plan. This will be the fifth update to the region's Comprehensive Plan.

This update will follow the region's commitment to work together to review, discuss and plan for our future needs such as traffic, housing, economic development and safety.

We encourage our residents and business owners to join the discussion. The discussions now guide the planning process for tomorrow. We welcome your comments and suggestions for this next update. Please contact our office at 717-626-8900 or email

townshipmanager@warwicktownship.org to let us know you want to participate in this planning process. We will also post the meeting schedule if you simply wish to attend.

If you want to review the previous or current Joint Strategic Plan documents, please visit our website at: https://www.warwicktownship.org/Joint_Strategic_Plans

