

A-40 Street Deicing Operations

This activity applies to deicing and anti-icing operations on streets and highways to control ice and snow.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

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 only as needed using minimum quantities. Adhere to manufacturers 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 storm or natural drainage systems. Maintain sand piles so that sand cannot wash into the storm drain system.
- 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 surface clears.
- Minimize use 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.
- Switch products to one with a lower amount of metals.

Additional Information:

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