



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street | Providence, RI 02908 | 401.222.4700 | www.dem.ri.gov | @RhodeIslandDEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 29, 2017

CONTACT: Gail Mastrati, DEM – 401.222.4700

gail.mastrati@dem.ri.gov

DEM: TIME TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SNOW DISPOSAL SITES

PROVIDENCE – With winter approaching, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is reminding businesses, community groups, and state and local government agencies to begin preparations for snow disposal. DEM has developed [guidelines](#) to assist organizations with selecting and preparing collection sites to minimize impacts on public health and the environment.

Snow collected from roads, parking lots, bridges and sidewalks may contain harmful contaminants – such as road salt, sand, and litter – that can compromise water supplies. To minimize the risks, DEM advises organizations to:

- Locate snow collection sites adjacent to or on pervious surfaces in upland areas, away from water resources and wells. This will allow snow melt to filter into the soil, leaving behind sand and debris. The latter should be removed as soon as possible but no later than springtime.
- Prepare and maintain snow collection sites to maximize their effectiveness – such as installing a silt fence or sediment barriers on the down-gradient side of the site; maintaining a vegetative buffer between the site and adjacent water bodies; and clearing away debris prior to and after using the area for snow disposal.
- Under normal winter conditions, store and dispose of snow exclusively in upland areas and not in or adjacent to waterbodies or wetlands. DEM's [Snow Disposal Policy](#) includes guidance on emergency disposal of snow under extraordinary circumstances when upland snow storage options are exhausted.

For more information, visit www.dem.ri.gov or contact Jennifer Stout in DEM's Office of Water Resources via email at jennifer.stout@dem.ri.gov or at (401) 222-4700 ext. 7726. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandDEM or on Twitter (@RhodeIslandDEM) for timely updates.