# Shoveling and Deicing Tool Kit

These messages were developed by the Keep it Clean Partnership for its partners in the Boulder Saint Vrain Watershed. Local government, nonprofit organizations, and other community groups are welcome to use these messages to support stormwater education. Adjust the messages to tailor them to your community’s ordinances, resources, events, and facilities.

## Links

* For more information on how to protect waterways from home, visit [www.keepitcleanpartnership.org](http://www.keepitcleanpartnership.org).
* Link to snow removal FAQs, 24-hour shovel ordinances, and other winter resources on your community’s website.
* Learn more about [your community’s] winter storm [plan/guide/other resource]:

Newsletter Message #1 (95 words)

Protect waterways after winter storms by shoveling snow onto vegetated areas and limiting the amount of deicer you use at home. Melting snow will carry deicers and other pollutants into storm drains that drain directly to nearby streams. Deicers of any kind will negatively affect the environment in large quantities. If using a deicer, apply it as soon as snowy or icy conditions appear. Deicers help break the bond between ice and pavement to make shoveling easier. They do not evaporate the snow and ice, so adding more does not eliminate the need to shovel.

## Newsletter Message #2 (131 words)

How do we protect both people and waterways after winter storms? Deicers are a useful tool that help keep walkways and driveways safe when there is snow and ice but are harmful to aquatic life in large quantities. Melting snow will carry deicers and other pollutants into storm drains which drain directly to nearby streams without any treatment.

**What can I do at home?**

Shovel snow from sidewalks onto vegetated areas so it can soak into the ground instead of flowing onto the street. If using a deicer, apply according to instructions as soon as snowy or icy conditions appear. Deicers help break the bond between ice and pavement to make shoveling easier. They do not evaporate the snow and ice, so adding more does not eliminate the need to shovel.

## Newsletter Message #3 (186 words)

Winter is arriving! It brings us beautiful snowcapped mountains and ice-covered creeks, but it also means slippery conditions and breaking out our boots and shovels. Deicers are a useful tool that help keep walkways and driveways safe when there is snow and ice but are harmful to aquatic life in large quantities. Melting snow will carry deicers and other pollutants into storm drains, which drain directly to nearby streams without any treatment. So, how can we protect both people and waterways after winter storms? Here is what you can do:

* Secure trash and recycling bin lids to keep litter from blowing onto the snow.
* Pick up pet waste to prevent bacteria and nutrients from being carried away by melting snow.
* Shovel snow from sidewalks onto vegetated areas so it soaks into the ground instead of flowing onto the street.
* If using a deicer, apply according to instructions as soon as snowy or icy conditions appear. Deicers help break the bond between ice and pavement to make shoveling easier. They do not evaporate the snow and ice, so adding more does not eliminate the need to shovel.

## Social Media Posts

*Add one of the above links to your post.*

* Deicers keep walkways safe after winter storms but are harmful to aquatic life in large quantities. Shovel snow from sidewalks onto vegetated areas so it soaks into the ground instead of flowing onto the street. If using a deicer, apply according to instructions as soon as snowy or icy conditions appear.
* Should you use deicers when it snows? Deicers help break the bond between ice and pavement to make shoveling easier. They do not evaporate the snow and ice, so adding more does not eliminate the need to shovel. Shovel snow from sidewalks onto vegetated areas first so it soaks into the ground instead of flowing onto the street.