



THE CURRENT

Taking it to the Streets in Winter Ice & Snow



The Southeast has the comparative advantage of putting residents and local governments through fewer ice and snow storms than in other parts of the country. The good news is that we use smaller amounts of mineral salts, which can ruin landscaping and concrete, and harm pets and waterways. The bad news is that no de-icer is truly safe or environmentally friendly.

Inexpensive rock salt (NaCl) is one of the most harmful products used. Shovel snow if you can, and sprinkle sand or kitty litter for traction. If you use de-icers, know they are not effective when more than three inches of snow have accumulated.

If you must use de-icing products, buy "earth-friendly" or "pet safe" products which are less toxic than rock salt for our families, pets, wildlife, streams and lakes. Follow product directions carefully and sweep up residue during long thaws.

De-icers work only when they reach a liquid state and can break the bond between surface and ice. Do not over-apply.

Quick Topics



Code Red is dead in Orange County!

Register today with [OC Alerts](#), a new community emergency notification system, which replaces Code Red.

With the OC Alerts system, messages can be sent via cell phone, landline phone, e-mail, text messaging, fax, pager, etc. Residents can register to be alerted about severe weather, fires, floods, toxic spills, violent crimes and OWASA's water/sewer notices.

Entrepreneurs & science address new ways to have ice-free roads

- [New technology](#) "heating up"
- [Solar Roadways](#)

The Town of Chapel Hill, though finding these advances fascinating, cannot endorse products.

Report Pollution!

Call 919-969-RAIN (7246)
911 during non-office hours

Road Salt, Sand and Brine for Public Safety

Until technology can provide affordable options, keeping roads, sidewalks, and parking lots safe for drivers and pedestrians is an art as well as a science. If no rain is forecast, NCDOT and the Town's Public Works Department crews apply salt brine to roads, and mix sand and salt to spread sparingly at dangerous intersections. The use of brine uses four times less salt since it is applied in liquid form, and the salt can begin to work immediately. Brine is also more effective than solid salt in lower temperatures. Stormwater Management's street sweepers sweep up salt and sand residue after storm events to limit the amount of sediment and chloride entering storm drains and streams.

- [Town of Chapel Hill Adverse Weather Information](#)



Taking it FROM the Streets - Year-Round

Stormwater Management's two sweeper trucks average 120 road miles per week, or 6,000 miles per year. This reduces litter, grit, organic matter, vehicle dust and drips, heavy metals, and remaining salt and sand from entering storm drains and waterways. The crew sweeps downtown Chapel Hill twice a week. Major roads and thoroughfares get swept at least once a week.

The crew also sweeps after events like Halloween, street festivals, UNC Homecoming, and parades to "dry" clean before the flusher truck washes streets.

Residential streets are swept in six to eight week cycles.

The crew uses a screen machine to sift debris from stock-piled sweepings. The soil, along with leaves and pine needles, will be tested for hydrocarbons, and if safe, will be used as top soil.



Did You Know?

More reasons to take public transportation!

Relieving traffic and carbon emissions are important to our community, but roads and vehicles are now considered to be the greatest contributors to heavy metal pollution in the U.S. Metals include lead, zinc, copper, chromium, and cadmium.

[Learn More](#)
[What You Can Do](#)

Help Prevent Storm Drain Clogs & Water Pollution

Residents can help to prevent storm drain clogging and flooding, as well as reduce nutrients which fuel algae growth in waterways, by keeping yard waste out of the gutters and storm drains. [Learn more](#)



Volunteers "Sweep Up" During 2014 Fall Event



NC Big Sweep's 290 Orange County volunteers removed 6,200 pounds of trash from local waterways and surrounding land. In Chapel Hill and Carrboro, volunteers removed 29 tires; 1,250 pounds of recyclable bottles and cans; and 2,850 pounds of other trash from Bolin, Booker and Morgan Creek watersheds. Carrboro Recreation and Parks with help from Carrboro Public Works led a group of 70 volunteers, including Cub Scout Pack 821, UNC Carolina Covenant, and

Carrboro Youth Council. They, along with Cub Scout Pack 39, Binkley Baptist Youth Group, Chapel Hill High School Green Tigers and Blue Tigers Clubs, Culbreth Middle School's Environmental Science Club, Morgan Creek Valley Alliance, Carrboro High School AP Environmental Science students and teachers, Hidden Hills Neighborhood Association, Venture Crew and Boy Scout Troops 39 and 845, families, individuals and the Town of Chapel Hill Stormwater Management staff and Solid Waste Division contributed over 565 hours.

This event is held each year in September and October.

Call for Volunteer Stream Team Monitors

Stream Team monitoring is a way for residents to contribute to clean water and healthier streams through citizen science. An introduction to volunteer stream monitoring and stream ecology will be held for potential volunteers:

NC Botanical Garden
Monday, February 23, 2015
7:00-9:00pm

RSVP: [Wendy Smith](#)

There is a limit of 10 new sites.

For more information, visit:
townofchapelhill.org/Stormwater>Public Education>Stream Team



Town of Chapel Hill
Stormwater Management ♦ 919-969-RAIN
www.townofchapelhill.org/stormwater