

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS FOR CLEAN WATER

Roads, Parking Lots,
and Stockpiles

Why does it matter?

Stormwater can carry pollution and chemicals directly into ditches and storm drains which connect to lakes, rivers and streams. Drainage in VLAWMO leads to Vadnais Lake: everyone plays a role in protecting this public source of drinking water.

Routine street and parking lot sweeping

- Street sweepings often include salt, sand, leaves, chemicals & debris removed from roads and is classified as Solid Waste.
- Dispose of sweepings properly in a landfill or approved compost facility.
- Municipalities that stockpile street sweepings before disposing of them must take steps to prevent the material from washing or blowing away: store in enclosures with outdoor canopies and concrete barricades.

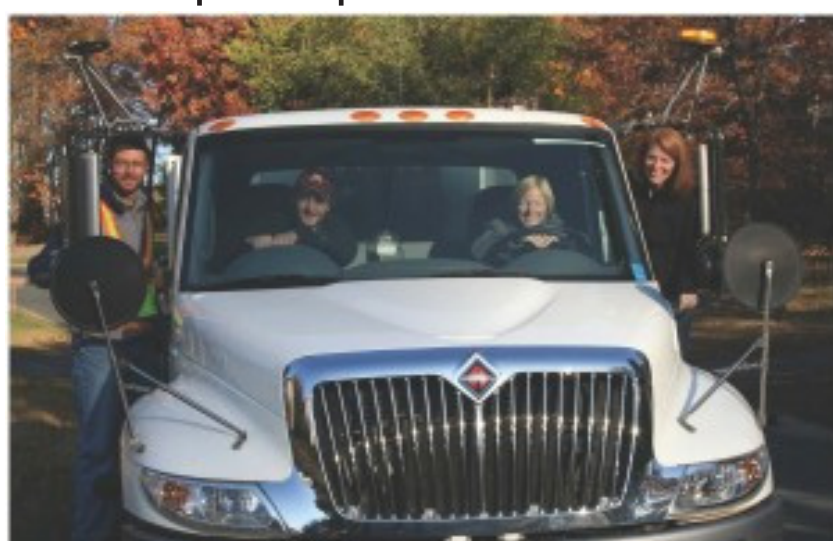


Photo courtesy of Larry Baker, U of M

Pothole repair

- Do not use volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to liquefy asphalt (aka cutback asphalt). This can lead to increased ozone levels, causing air pollution.
- Coal tar-based sealants can no longer be sold or applied legally in Minnesota.
- Pre-treat all grader blades, truck beds, tires, asphalt distributors and other equipment and tools with vegetable oil or approved product as a release agent for asphalt. Hand sprayers can be used to apply the vegetable oil.
- Schedule activities for dry weather.



Photo Credit: www.geveko-markings.com

Pavement marking

- Beware of over spray, dust, spills and leaks, sediment, fuel, hydraulic fluid, and oil.
- Schedule pavement marking for dry weather days.
- Load and transfer paint away from storm drains.
- Use drop cloths and drip pans in paint-mixing areas.
- Properly maintain application equipment.

Stock piles

- Store all materials (salt, snow, sand, etc.) away from lakes, rivers, wetlands, ditches, and storm drains. Store in elevated sheds, or for larger piles, in dry, enclosed canopies.
- Store snow in an area accessible to street sweepers to remove leftover dirt and sand after the snow melts.

Patching, Resurfacing and Sealing

- Clean cracks prior to sealing using a broom or compressed air.
- Stockpile resurfacing materials properly.
- Identify, cover and seal nearby storm drains and maintenance holes prior to repairs. Leave covers in place until activity is complete and sealants have drained or evaporated.
- Clean any debris from covered storm drains or maintenance holes.
- Pre-heat or load hot material away from storm drains.
- Plan activities for a dry day.



Photo Credit: www.water.epa.gov

Photo Credit: http://charmack.org/

Curb and sidewalk repair

- Curb and sidewalk repair may include the use of a compressor, jackhammer, or sawcutter, and disposal of removed materials.
- Leaks, spills and concrete washout can result in the release of pollutants such as fuel, hydraulic fluid, oil, sediment, and concrete.
- Be sure to identify and cover storm drains with appropriate materials, such as sand bags or impermeable tarps with aggregate covering, to prevent runoff.

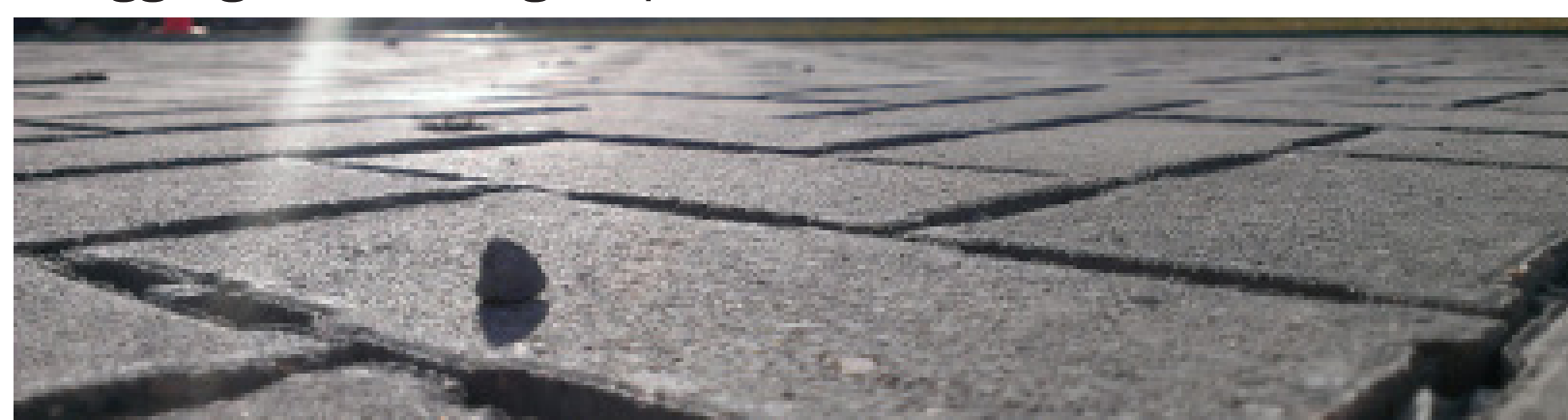
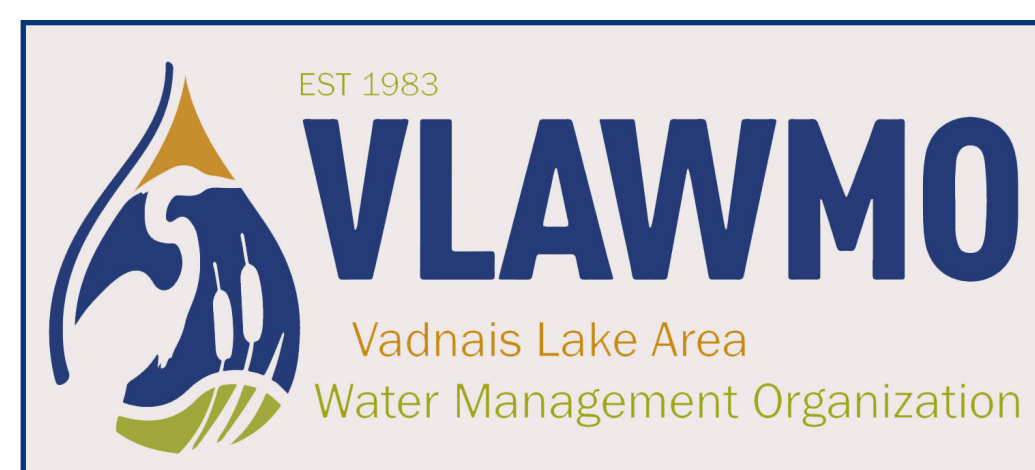


Photo Credit: Washington County

Permeable surfaces

- Minimizing the use of impervious surfaces will reduce the volume of runoff in a given area and the need for curbing and storm drains. Porous pavement allows rain and snowmelt to pass through, thereby reducing runoff from a site and surrounding areas.
- Permeable pavers may substitute for conventional pavement on parking areas with light traffic, bike lanes, sidewalks, and other areas if the grades, subsoils, drainage and other characteristics such as groundwater flow are suitable.



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