

Blockages from Snow and Ice

The most obvious issue drainage systems face in winter is physical blockages. When snow piles up on drains or ice forms inside them, the system's ability to handle runoff is significantly reduced. Regular snow removal and de-icing are key to keeping these systems functional.



Snowmelt Overload

When temperatures rise after a heavy snowfall, all that snow turns into water — fast. This sudden influx of water can overwhelm stormwater drainage systems that aren't designed to handle rapid snowmelt.

Freezing and Thawing Cycles

Winter is notorious for its freeze-thaw cycles, where temperatures hover around freezing, causing water to repeatedly freeze and thaw. Regular inspections can catch these issues before they escalate into bigger problems.



Contact Us

AWhite@UVLSRPC.org

@UVLSRPC

[\(603\) 448-1680](tel:6034481680)

<https://www.uvlsrpc.org>



Culvert Maintenance in the Winter

Why Winter

Maintenance Matters

Ignoring drainage systems during winter can lead to costly repairs and environmental damage. Flooded streets aren't just inconvenient; they can also pose safety risks for drivers and pedestrians.



How to Protect Stormwater Drainage Systems in Winter

1. Keep Drains Clear
2. Regular Maintenance
3. Monitor Snowmelt
4. Use De-Icing Products Sparingly

Culvert De-icing in the Winter

What is Culvert De-icing?

Culvert de-icing is the process of removing ice blockages from underground pipes (culverts) that carry water, preventing road flooding and infrastructure damage. It's typically done with high-pressure hot water or steam.

As spring emerges, many property owners face the challenge of how to thaw frozen culverts. Frozen culverts can lead to blocked drainage, flooding and road or property damage.



What You'll Need:

- Hot water pressure washer – A maximum rating of 3,000psi and a temperature capability of at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit is recommended
- Pressure washer parts and accessories – Choose a specialized culvert nozzle, which features reverse jets and a rotating style that blasts ice and flushes it out while channeling through the pipe.
- Safety gear- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, safety goggles and non-slip footwear.

How to De-ice:

1. Prepare the pressure washer by filling the fuel and water tanks.
2. Inspect the culvert's entry and exit points and remove any branches or debris that could impede the water flow.
3. Turn on the machine pump and burner switches.
4. Begin by directing the hot water spray into the frozen culvert, starting at the entry point. Slowly work your way deeper into the culvert, pushing the hose in and out of the opening, allowing the culvert nozzle to blast out ice and debris.
5. Periodically check the culvert's exit to see if water is flowing. If not, continue thawing until water freely passes through the culvert.