



# Maintaining Your Driveway Culvert!



## What is a culvert?

A culvert is a structure which carries water underneath a road or driveway. When culverts are placed beneath driveways on privately owned property, it is often the owners' responsibility to care for them.



## Seasonal Maintenance



### Fall

- Clear any blockages
- Ensure that the ends of the culvert are marked for snow plow operators.

### Spring

- Clean your culvert and remove any blockages



### Summer

- Remove blockages
- Clean and flush the entire pipe
- Perform any needed repairs to the structure of the culvert
- Ensure that the weeds/grass near the entrances of the culvert are trimmed neatly.
- Cut and remove any branches upstream which could block culvert ditches
- Plant plants on the ends of the ditches to prevent erosion

### How to remove culvert blockages:

1. Start by using a shovel to clean around the entrance of the culvert.
2. If blockages remain, attempt to use a pressure washer or a sewage jet to remove additional blockages.
3. If needed, additional specialized tools may be used to reach into the culvert and further clear the space.

### Pro Tips

- If your culvert is more than 30% full or causes frequent erosion, consider upgrading to a larger size.
- Ensure there is deep-rooted vegetation downstream from your culvert to prevent erosion.

### More Info



Prepared by Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission