

## SUMMER STORM PREPAREDNESS

The summer season can often bring with it heavy rainstorms, high winds or even tornadoes. The Watertown DPW encourages all residents to be prepared for such severe weather. Preparing your property to withstand heavy rains can be extremely helpful, for both individual properties and public infrastructure.



### Be Prepared for Summer Rains:

- Seal cracks in foundation walls
- Keep gutters clean
- Check your insurance coverage
- Don't store items directly on the basement floor
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed by removing dead, damaged or diseased limbs
- Make sure sump pumps are working

### What to Do During a Rainfall:

- Direct downspouts away from buildings
- Keep storm drain grates clear
- Close basement windows and doors
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road – you can be stranded or trapped—the depth of the water and the condition of the road is not always obvious
- Reduce home water use during rains storms

### How to Help the Town's Drainage System Manage Summer Rains:

- Don't blow mowed grass unto the street as it blocks drain grates
- Avoid using bark mulch near the street as it can float and block storm drain grates
- Keep storm drain grates clear
- Reduce water use during a rainfall

The storm drainage system can be overtaxed during intense periods of heavy rain. Localized flooding can be expected at low points and in poor drainage areas. Such flooding is temporary and usually subsides after the end of a storm.