

A heavy rain, melting snow, your land is washed by water. Stormwater can run off your driveway or a highway into a culvert and into a storm drain. From there it can enter a stream, pond and eventually... your well.

Stormwater can become your drinking water. Only you can determine how clean that water will be.

RESIDENT, TOWN OF POUND RIDGE
POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK 10576

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Pound Ridge Conservation Board
Town House, Westchester Avenue
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

THE DANGERS OF STORMWATER RUNOFF AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

A mailing of importance from The Pound Ridge Conservation Board
Visit us at: www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation for more information.

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM

The roads in Pound Ridge control stormwater runoff by directing it into grated storm drains. The stormwater that enters those drains does not receive any treatment before it enters our waterways. Polluted stormwater runoff is a major cause of environmental harm.

Polluted water impacts the wildlife in creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Dirt from erosion (sediment) covers up fish habitats. Fertilizers can cause too much algae to grow which suffocate ponds by using up all the oxygen wildlife needs to survive (*eutrophication*). Soaps hurt fish gills and fish skin. The deicing salts we sprinkle on our walkways, the soap from a car wash, the lawn chemicals - which we don't really need - and dog poop; all wash into our water system.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that stormwater runoff (Non-point source pollution) degrades our nation's water quality more than any other type of pollution.

The EPA, New York State DEC and Westchester County have instituted new regulations for towns and homeowners to help improve stormwater runoff quality. We are being required to improve our town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

One of the first requirements to impact homeowners will be the requirement to clean out your septic tank every five years. If the septic hauler finds a problem when your septic system is emptied, they will tell you but they are also mandated to report it to the county. The county will then tell you how to remediate any problem.

Should you notice a potential septic problem, please report it to the County Board of Health or Jim Perry.

What can we do as individual homeowners to improve our town's MS4? First minimize the pollutants that get into the runoff. Second, minimize the amount of runoff by creating swales, rain gardens, etc. to slow the stormwater down and allow it to percolate through the soil.

We are the beneficiaries of our efforts. It's easier to prevent pollution than it is to clean it up. Our surface water, which intersects with our ground water, will stay cleaner with a little bit of your effort. Water is our precious resource.

If you have a concern or a question, Jim Perry, our Building Inspector, is here to help you. (Direct line: 764-4635.)

Please check the Conservation Board's page on the town's web site for additional information and resources on this and other topics at:

<http://townofpoundridge.com/conservation>

THE DOS & DON'TS

Clean up after your dog and dispose wrapped fecal material into the trash. Even better, flush pet wastes that are not wrapped or mixed with other material

Compost your yard waste - don't let it get washed down the road by the next storm.

Wash your car on the grass or gravel driveway so that the dirt and detergent can be filtered by the soil.

Recycle used motor oil. Most service stations will accept used oil.

Dispose of empty bottles of lawn and household chemicals and cleansers according to their label directions.

Do not let them enter your septic system.

Don't flush pills down the toilet. Use the trash or ask your pharmacist if they will accept them.

Please, get involved with our planet.

What we suggest requires little extra effort. on your part.

Isn't it a good lesson to share with our children?

Isn't that our responsibility for their future.