Pound Ridge Conservation Board
PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Preventing Phosphorus Pollution

A Guide for Pound Ridge Businesses/Property Owners with Septic Systems

Why Your Business Should Care

Pound Ridge lies within the Croton Reservoir Watershed, a critical drinking water source. Phosphorus from failing septic systems contributes to water pollution and harmful algal blooms. Maintaining your septic system helps protect local streams, ponds, and wetlands—and keeps your business compliant with environmental standards.

Six Smart Practices for Local Businesses/Property Owners with Septic Systems

1. Maintain Your Septic System Proactively

- Pump your septic tank every 3–5 years, depending on use.
- Get annual inspections to catch and fix leaks or system failures early.

2. Use Phosphorus-Free Products

- Switch to phosphate-free commercial cleaners and detergents.
- Train staff to select environmentally safe products.

3. Limit Fertilizer Use

- Avoid applying fertilizers near storm drains or waterways.
- Use phosphorus-free lawn products (look for a "0" in the middle of the fertilizer ratio).
- Landscape with native plants that require less chemical input.

4. Properly Manage Wastewater

- Never pour chemicals, oils, or kitchen wastewater into floor drains connected to your septic.
- Dispose of all hazardous materials through approved waste services.

5. Educate Your Staff

- Promote phosphorus-safe practices in kitchens and maintenance areas.
- Post signs reminding staff to use eco-friendly products and dispose of waste properly.

6. Upgrade Older Septic Systems

- Systems over 20 years old may need an audit or upgrade.
- Newer systems include phosphorus-reduction technology to protect water quality.

Additional Resources

- **Westchester County Dept. of Health:** health.westchestergov.com
- **Pound Ridge Town Code (Septic & Stormwater):** ecode360.com/8164753
- **NYS DEC Phosphorus Lawn Care Guidelines:** dec.ny.gov

Your Business Can Make a Difference

By maintaining your septic system and adopting phosphorus-safe practices, you help preserve the health of Pound Ridge's environment and water supply—now and for the future.