

## **It's Up to You!**

During every rainstorm, pollutants left on parking lots, driveways, roads and yards are washed down storm drains that flow into natural waterways. The Public Works Department is working to clean-up stormwater runoff and improve the health of our waters and wetlands.

Homeowners can do their part in improving the health of our waterways by adopting the swimming pool discharge practices listed within this brochure.

## **It's the Law**

Sending pollutant-laden runoff down the storm drain is not only bad for the health of our waterways, it's illegal. State and federal laws prohibit the discharge of pollutants into surface water, stormwater, and groundwater.

## **Report Pollution**

If you notice illegal dumping, or see, hear about, or even suspect activity that you believe is against the law and placing people's health or natural resources at risk, contact:

New Canaan Department of Public  
Works WPCF

203-594-3700.

**Many pool owners who live within the Town of New Canaan drain their swimming pools to reduce maintenance and potential damage from freezing during the winter. Please follow the pollution prevention practices listed in this brochure when draining your swimming pool or hot tub to ensure you have done your part to keep all of our waterways clean and healthy.**



**Town of New Canaan**  
Public Works Department  
WPCF 203-594-3700  
October 2012

# **Swimming Pools and Surface Water Quality**



***Best Practices Guide for  
Swimming Pool Owners.***

**There shall be NO discharge of swimming pool acid cleaning, pressure wash or swimming pool filtration backwash wastewaters to any surface water or wetland**

## **Best Practices**

**Swimming pool draining wastewaters may be discharged from a public or private residential pool to a surface water "catch basin" provided the following conditions are met:**

Make sure the pH level is between 6.5 and 8.0.

Total residual chlorine or bromine shall be non-detectable as determined by a test kit commonly used in the pool industry (less than 0.1mg/L).

The discharge shall not cause foaming or discoloration of the receiving waters.

No algae or sanitation control treatment chemicals, other than those that are bromine or chlorine based, are used. Chemicals to adjust the PH may also be used.

The discharge shall not cause the scouring of stream, river or estuarine bottoms or wetlands.

It should be noted that swimming pool wastewaters may also be permitted discharges to the Town Sewer System \*, ground surface, or dedicated subsurface disposal system that are in full compliance with the CT DEEP General Permit. Please see the CT DEEP General Permit for discharge of Swimming Pool Wastewater for specific details.

\* Before discharging into the Town on New Canaan Sewer System, notification should be made to the WPCF for authorization and sampling. Call 203-594-3700

## **More Pollution Control Practices**

Store pool chemicals safely, where they will not be subjected to rain events.

Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly or not at all.

Landscape your yard with bushes, trees, and mulched beds to produce less runoff.

Do not dump yard waste in streams.

Inspect and repair your septic system regularly.

Wash cars on a grassy area with phosphorus-free detergents or use a car wash that recycles wash water.

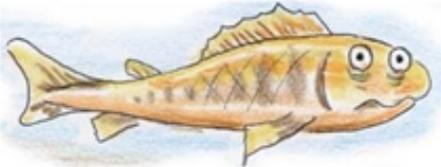
Sweep sidewalks and driveways and dispose of sweepings in the trash.

Pick up pet waste and cat litter and dispose of in the trash.

Fix any vehicle leaks.

Swimming pools are a major source of chlorinated water discharged into storm drainage systems.

Chlorinated water discharged directly to surface waters or via storm drains has an adverse effect on local water quality.



Chlorinated water from swimming pools that has been discharged into a storm drain, street or gutter ends up in a stream or river where it produces by-products that are highly toxic and carcinogenic to fish and other wildlife.

These by-products then can combine with other organic materials to form extremely toxic organic chemicals.

