

## ***Typical Storm Water Violations***

- ❖ Leaking Dumpsters/Compactors
- ❖ Open/Uncovered Dumpsters
- ❖ Overflowing Dumpsters
- ❖ Uncovered Grease Containers
- ❖ Disposal of Grease into Dumpsters Instead of Grease Bins
- ❖ Spilled Grease
- ❖ Dumping of Grease into Storm Drains
- ❖ Storage of Chemicals/Cleaners Outside
- ❖ Exposed Open Containers of Chemicals Outside
- ❖ Spilled Oil
- ❖ Dumping of Oils into Storm Drains
- ❖ Improper Pesticide Application and Usage (Insect and Rodent)
- ❖ Runoff of Poisonous/Toxic Chemicals into Waterways
- ❖ Floor Cleaning Waste Water Directed Outside
- ❖ Improper Cleaning of Parking Lots (Using Degreasers)
- ❖ Dumping of Mop Water into Storm Drains or onto Parking Lots
- ❖ Dumping Solid Waste into Storm Drains
- ❖ Outside Cleaning/Degreasing of Equipment/Trucks
- ❖ Floor Mats being Washed Outside
- ❖ Cleaning Mobile Vending Trucks Outside Near Storm Drains

**Dumping of waste water is ILLEGAL in CT!**

## **For more information contact:**

**Town of Westport, Conservation Department**  
110 Myrtle Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 341-1170  
[www.westportct.gov](http://www.westportct.gov)

**Westport-Weston Health District**  
180 Bayberry Lane  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 227-9571  
[www.wwhd.org](http://www.wwhd.org)

**Westport Department of Public Works**  
10 Myrtle Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 341-1120  
[www.westportct.gov](http://www.westportct.gov)

**Town of Fairfield, Conservation Department**  
725 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 256-3071  
[www.fairfieldct.org](http://www.fairfieldct.org)

**Town of Fairfield, Health Department**  
725 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 256-3020  
[www.fairfieldct.org/health.htm](http://www.fairfieldct.org/health.htm)

**Town of Fairfield, Public Works Department**  
725 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 256-3070  
[www.fairfieldct.org](http://www.fairfieldct.org)

**CT Department of Environmental Protection**  
(860) 424-3959  
[www.ct.gov/DEP/watershed](http://www.ct.gov/DEP/watershed)

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
(203) 287-8038 Ext. 100  
[www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov)



*Sasco Brook  
Watershed  
Awareness and  
Education for  
Commercial  
Establishments*

*Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee  
November 2010*

## ***DO YOU . . . ?***

**Do you dump waste water into the storm drains in your parking lot?**



**Do you know where that waste water goes?**



**Do you know that waste waters pollute our rivers, streams and Long Island Sound?**



**Do you know that toxic chemicals can harm living natural resources, plants and animals?**



## ***WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .***

***Alternatives to dumping waste water down storm drains:***

- ✓ Use a mop sink that is connected to the public sewers.
- ✓ Contract a company to clean your floor mats at their facility or in their van. These companies must store the wash water and pump it to the municipal sewer system.
- ✓ Install and maintain storm drain inserts to reduce sediments.
- ✓ Not only is waste water harmful to the environment and costly to taxpayers, but sediments disrupt natural habitats and eventually result in the need for dredging.

***Managing your parking lot runoff***

- ✓ Install buffer strips, vegetation, mulch, stone and filter fabric.
- ✓ Pump your storm drains on a regular basis.



Winter sands wash into storm drains (catch basins) and fill in rivers resulting in the need for dredging.

## ***MORE OF WHAT YOU CAN DO***

***To help keep local waterways clean:***

- ✓ Educate yourself and others about pollution prevention and best management practices.
- ✓ Sweep/clean-up dumpster areas daily and properly dispose of wastes.
- ✓ Have dumpsters/grease bins emptied often.
- ✓ Seal all waste before placing into dumpsters.
- ✓ Provide secondary containment or additional storage for chemicals.
- ✓ Cover dumpsters and grease bins.



- ✓ Dispose of grease properly into grease bins.
- ✓ Clean-up any leaked waste/grease.
- ✓ Change dumpsters/compactors when leaks are found.
- ✓ Reduce pesticide usage.
- ✓ Utilize Integrated Pest Management options.
- ✓ Clean all mats in mop sink.
- ✓ Dump all mop bucket water into mop sinks plumbed to the sanitary sewer line.
- ✓ Don't use detergents/degreasers for outside cleaning.
- ✓ Clean mobile vending trucks in approved areas.



# Protect Sasco Brook!

Use care when maintaining your yard, automobile and pets to protect Sasco Brook and Long Island Sound.

## Fertilizer Facts & Rates

Fertilizer labels always display three numbers in the same order, (i.e., 10-6-4). They represent the % by weight of three important nutrients:

- **Nitrogen (N)**-- for green, leafy growth
- **Phosphorus (P)**-- for root and bud growth
- **Potassium (K)**-- for disease and drought tolerance

Example: A bag of 10-6-4 fertilizer has 10% nitrogen, 6% phosphate, and 4% potassium.

Excess fertilizer washes into waterways and ponds causing algae blooms and killing fish, wildlife, and flora.

**TEST YOUR SOIL FIRST!**

## Septic Systems Maintenance

- Inspect your septic system annually and service outlet filters.
- Pump out your system every 2-3 years by a licensed septic service company.
- Use nontoxic cleaning products.
- Avoid using septic tank cleaning compounds.

## Pet Waste

- Pick up your pet's waste when out walking; then flush the waste down the toilet, or
- Bury your pet's waste 6" deep; keep it away from vegetable gardens, wells, or nearby water bodies.
- Remove pet waste from play areas.
- Clean up pet waste from sidewalks, paved areas, around wells, stormdrains, and waterways.

*Pet waste contains bacteria.*



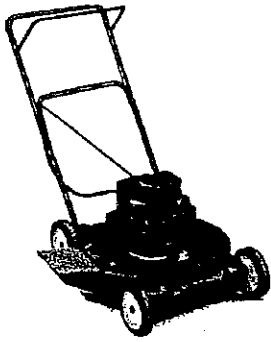
## Reduce Runoff On Your Property

- Use gravel, interlocking stones, or bricks instead of concrete and asphalt.
- Landscape with berms and swales to catch and filter runoff.
- Plant native grasses, shrubs, and trees to slow runoff, prevent soil erosion, and increase water absorption.
- Plant vegetation using a concave approach -- water flows toward the plant and filters down into the ground.



## Maintain Your Automobile

- Check for leaks - use sawdust or cat litter to soak up spills. Double bag and put in trash.
- Use a drop cloth and container to collect fluids when doing routine maintenance.
- Recycle fluids at an authorized collection site.
- Wash car over gravel or grass. Use minimum of water and biodegradable phosphate-free soap.
- Never pour oil, antifreeze, or other toxic substances into your home's wastewater drain, outside storm sewer, nearby water bodies, or onto the ground.



## Compost Quick Guide

### ✓ Do Compost

Raw vegetable scraps  
Leaves and flowers  
Shredded prunings  
Old plants and potting soil  
Grass clippings if not recycled

### ✗ Don't Compost

Meat or fish parts  
Dairy products  
Invasive weeds  
Cooking oil/oily foods  
Pet waste

## Mowing Guide

	Summer	Spring/Fall
Tall fescue	3"	1 1/2 - 2"
Perennial ryegrass	3"	1 1/2 - 2"
Kentucky bluegrass	3"	1 1/2 - 2"
Fine fescue	3"	1 1/2 - 2"

Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They return nutrients to your lawn and reduce the need for additional fertilizers.

Keep mower blades *sharp*.

## Lawn Fertilizer

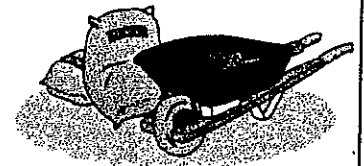
Fertilizers and pesticides can help produce a lush lawn, but they must be used according to instructions to prevent water quality problems. Compost mixed with your soil can provide some of the organic matter and nutrients your soil needs without using commercial preparations.

- **Test Your Soil First!** Only fertilize based on your soil needs.
- Retest soil every 3-5 years.
- Do not apply fertilizer to frozen ground or dormant turf.
- Only use what you need – more is not always better.

### Soil Testing Services:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
New Haven, Connecticut  
(203) 974-8521  
[www.state.ct.us/caes](http://www.state.ct.us/caes)


UConn Testing Lab  
Storrs, Connecticut  
(860) 486-4274  
[www.canr.uconn.edu/](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/)



## Watering

- **Early morning** is the best time to water to discourage disease.
- 1 - 1 1/2" per week is plenty of water for most lawns.
- Water slowly; wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.
- Make sure sprinkler heads are watering greenery -- not pavement.
- Avoid water runoff from the lawn.
- Avoid light, frequent watering.
- Consider landscaping with drought-tolerant grasses, shrubs, and trees.

## Horsekeeping

- Collect manure and soiled bedding daily from stalls and paddocks. 
- Place waste in closed containers or cover piles with a plastic sheet or roof.
- Compost manure in a dry location or haul offsite.
- Fence horses out of streams, wetlands, and ponds.
- Install roof gutters and vegetative buffers to prevent surface runoff from entering water bodies. **Runoff carries pollutants.**

## Where to Get Help

Westport Conservation Department .....	(203) 341-1170
Westport Weston Health District .....	(203) 227-9571
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection .....	(860) 424-3000
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	(203) 787-0390
Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District .....	(203) 269-8806
Cooperative Extension System .....	(203) 207-8440
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station .....	(203) 974-8500

# Septic System Management Awareness Survey Questionnaire

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction:

*Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We're volunteers and we need your help on a clean water awareness survey of Westporters we're doing for the Town. We won't be keeping track of names or addresses -- and the survey will only take about 15 minutes to complete. Are you OK with participating? Thanks, let's begin...*

### Question Q01:

How long have you lived in this residence? \_\_\_\_\_ years (round)

### Question Q02:

How many people live here?     1    2    3    4    5    6    7+

### Question Q03:

Do you rent or own your home?     Rent     Own     Don't Know = [End Interview]

### Question Q04:

Do you have well water or town water for your drinking water?

Well Water     Town Water     Don't Know [ refer to WWHD]

>If Town Water or Don't Know, SKIP to Q05

### Question Q04a:

If well water, have you ever had your well water tested?     Yes     No     Don't Know [WWHD]

### Question Q05:

Is your property within the aquifer protection area?     Yes     No     Don't Know

\_\_\_\_\_ What's an aquifer protection area?

>If ask "What is" -- explain aquifer protection area [Conservation Dept.]

### Question Q06:

Is your property on or near wetlands?     Yes     No     Don't Know     What are wetlands?

> If ask "What is" -- explain wetlands    [Conservation Dept.]

**Question Q07:**

Do you have a septic system?

Yes  No  Don't Know

What's a septic system?

> If No or Don't Know explain "Yes, you do!" and SKIP to Q12

> If ask "What is" -- explain septic system [WWHD] and SKIP to Q12

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**Question Q07a:**

If Yes, do you know where your septic system is?

Yes  No [WWHD]

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**Question Q07a1:**

If Yes, where is it?  Front Yard  Back Yard  Side Yard  Other  Won't Say

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**Question Q8:**

Do you know what a leaching field or drain field is?  Yes  No (If No, refer to brochure later)

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**Question Q09:**

Has your septic system been pumped?  Yes  No  Don't Know [WWHD]

> If No, SKIP to Q11

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**Question Q09a:**

If Yes, when was it last pumped? In past  years  Not Sure

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**Question Q09b:**

If Yes, did the pumper supply you with any additional information regarding your septic system?

Yes  No  Don't Know

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**Question Q09b1:**

If Yes, what did the pumper give you?  receipt  bill  report  brochure  other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q09b2:**

If Yes, did you review and/or understand the information from by the pumper?  Yes  No  
 Yes, but didn't understand [WWHD]

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**Question Q09b3:**

If Yes, did the pumper tell you anything that needed to be done?  Yes  No  Don't Know

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**Question Q10:**

Has your septic system ever malfunctioned?  Yes  No  Don't Know

> If No or Don't Know, SKIP to Q12

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**Question Q10a:**

If Yes, WHAT happened?  Wet patch/"breakout" in yard  Extra lush, green patch of lawn  
 Back-upped shower, sink, or tub drains/Toilets  Bad Odor  
 Slow-Draining Showers/Sinks  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q10b:**

If Yes, do you know WHY it happened? Specify \_\_\_\_\_  Don't Know/Not Sure

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**Question Q11:**

Do you have a garbage disposal?  Yes  No  Don't Know [WWHD]

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**Question Q12:**

How are fat and/or grease disposed of?  down sink drain  in garbage  Don't Know  
 save in jar/can, dispose later  other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q13:**

What about coffee grounds?  down sink drain  in garbage  Don't Know  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q14:**

What about paper towel/wipes?  in garbage  flush down toilet  Don't Know  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q15:**

What about diapers/sanitary items?  in garbage  flush down toilet  Don't Know  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q16:**

What about paint/turpentine/motor oil?  pour down drain  flush down toilet  
 Dispose at Hazardous Waste Day  Don't Know  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q17:**

What about bleach or used cleaning products?  pour down drain  flush down toilet  
 Dispose at Hazardous Waste Day  Don't Know  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Question Q18:**

What about unused medications/drugs?  keep forever  flush down toilet  Don't Know  
 Put in garbage  Return to Dr./Pharmacy  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q19:**

What about pesticides/herbicides?  pour down drain  flush down toilet  
 Put in garbage  Dispose at Hazardous Waste Day  Don't Know  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q20:**

Do you ever use septic system performance enhancers?  Yes  No  Don't Know [WWHD]

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**Question Q21:**

Have you heard/read anything lately about septic systems?  Yes  No  Don't Know

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**Question Q21a:**

If Yes, where did you learn about it?  brochure  article in paper  radio  TV  
 from septic pumper  from real estate agent  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question Q22:**

How frequently should a family of five with a standard size septic system pump it out?  
(Prompt choices)  
 Every year  Every 2-5 years  Every 5 years or less frequently  
 Don't Ever Need To  Don't Know

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**Question Q23:**

Do you believe that water conservation -- such as taking shorter showers, fixing leaky fixtures, using water-saving appliances -- have an effect on your septic system?  Yes  No  Don't Know

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**Question Q24:**

Do you believe that the way you manage your septic system has an affect on overall water quality and the environment?  Yes  No  Don't Know

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**Question Q25:**

How *do you feel* about having a septic system? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Thank you for participating in this survey. As you can tell, we're interested in what people know about their septic systems, how best to manage them, and their impact on the environment. You should be hearing more about these issues in the future.*