

(AND POOP DOESN'T DISAPPEAR WITH A FLUSH!)

We all get our water from wells on our property.

After using the water, we return it to the earth,
through our septic systems, to be recycled.

This mailer discusses how water gets to our wells, how a septic system works, and what we should do to protect the purity and abundance of our water.

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**IN POUND RIDGE:
WATER DOESN'T COME
FROM A FAUCET**

THE WATER CYCLE

The earth has a limited amount of water. In its cycle it falls as precipitation. Some is absorbed by vegetation or runs into streams and lakes to become surface water. The rest percolates through the soil and becomes ground water. Eventually it returns to the sky through evaporation and the cycle starts over again

Pound Ridge contains eleven different watersheds, which we all share, averaging 1,200 acres each. Gravity pulls the water through the soil which acts as a filter system, purifying it, until the water reaches a saturated zone known as an aquifer. The line at which the water starts to accumulate in the aquifer is called the water table. The water table can be from a few to hundreds of feet below the ground and can fluctuate in unusually dry or wet times

YOUR WELL

Most wells are drilled into bedrock. The bedrock contains fractures and cracks that hold water. (Much like a sponge.) When your well intercepts these cracks and fractures, ground water stores from over a large area are delivered to your well.

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Most homes in Pound Ridge have a conventional septic system. When sewage enters a septic tank, some solids, fats, and greases partially decompose, and rise to the top forming a layer of scum. Other solids settle at the bottom, are attacked by bacteria, and form sludge. Waste water flows to an absorption field. The absorption field is a series of perforated pipes placed on gravel close to the surface of the soil. Some of the effluent that is distributed evaporates through vegetation. The balance works its way down through the soil back to the water table.

PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM AND YOUR WATER

- Pump your septic system every two to three years depending upon the size of the system and family size. Approximate cost: \$250
- If a septic tank is not cleaned, the solids are carried into the absorption field and rapid clogging will occur. Pumping a tank is a lot cheaper than replacing a field!**
- Poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into waterbodies.
- Garbage grinders substantially increase the accumulation of solids in your septic tank.
- Cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins do not readily decompose.
- Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in the sink or toilet
- **Avoid contamination of your well by avoiding pesticide use. They're designed to be toxic to the pests they target, and they also can harm children and pets. Be sure to cover or remove toys from treated area.**
- Lawns need only 1 inch of water a week. Let it dry between watering too encourage deep roots.
- Automatic watering systems often waste water and during droughts can cause wells to run dry. A brown lawn in August turns green with Fall rain.
- Vegetation, decaying leaves and earth worms help woodland soils absorb water at a faster rate than other soils. Everything shouldn't be blown clean.
- Do not use salts and chemicals on your driveway during winter, as they pollute groundwater.
- Source: www.grassrootsinfo.org