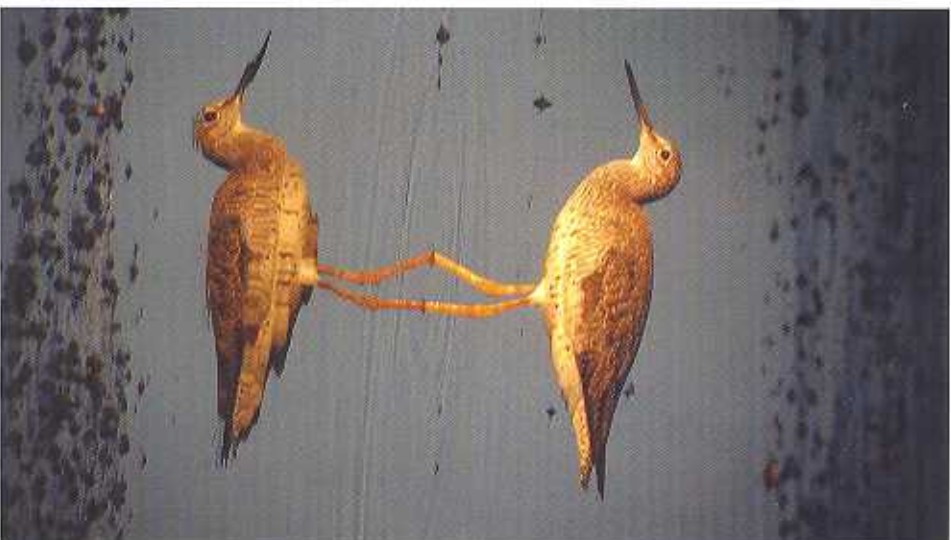


- **Call For Assistance.** It is important to hire a licensed plumber and to speak to your municipal office. We would like to assist you in dealing with this problem. Please call and schedule an appointment to discuss your improper sewer connection and possible remedies.
- **Report any Corrective Measures.** When an improper connection has been corrected, please submit documentation to your local government. Any remedial work must be reported.



Photos by Sandra Marruffino

**Harrison, Town/Village of**  
[www.town.harrison.ny.us](http://www.town.harrison.ny.us)  
 Town Engineer: 670-3070

**Larchmont, Village of**  
[www.villageoflarchmont.org](http://www.villageoflarchmont.org)  
 Village Engineer: 834-6230

**Mamaroneck, Town of**  
[www.townofmamaroneck.org](http://www.townofmamaroneck.org)  
 Building Dept.: 381-7830

**Mamaroneck, Village of**  
[www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us](http://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us)  
 Dept. of Public Works: 777-7745

**Mount Vernon, City of**  
[www.ci.mount-vernon.ny.us](http://www.ci.mount-vernon.ny.us)  
 Building Dept.: 665-2483

**New Rochelle, City of**  
[www.newrochelleny.com](http://www.newrochelleny.com)  
 Engineering Dept.: 654-2131

**Pellam Manor, Village of**  
[www.pellammanor.org](http://www.pellammanor.org)  
 Building Dept.: 738-8820

**Pelham, Village of**  
[www.pelhamgov.com](http://www.pelhamgov.com)  
 Building Dept.: 231-3320

**Port Chester, Village of**  
[www.portchesterny.com](http://www.portchesterny.com)  
 Building Dept.: 939-5203

**Rye, City of**  
[www.ryeny.gov](http://www.ryeny.gov)  
 Engineering Dept.: 967-7676

**Rye Brook, Village of**  
[www.ryebrook.org](http://www.ryebrook.org)  
 Building Dept.: 939-0668

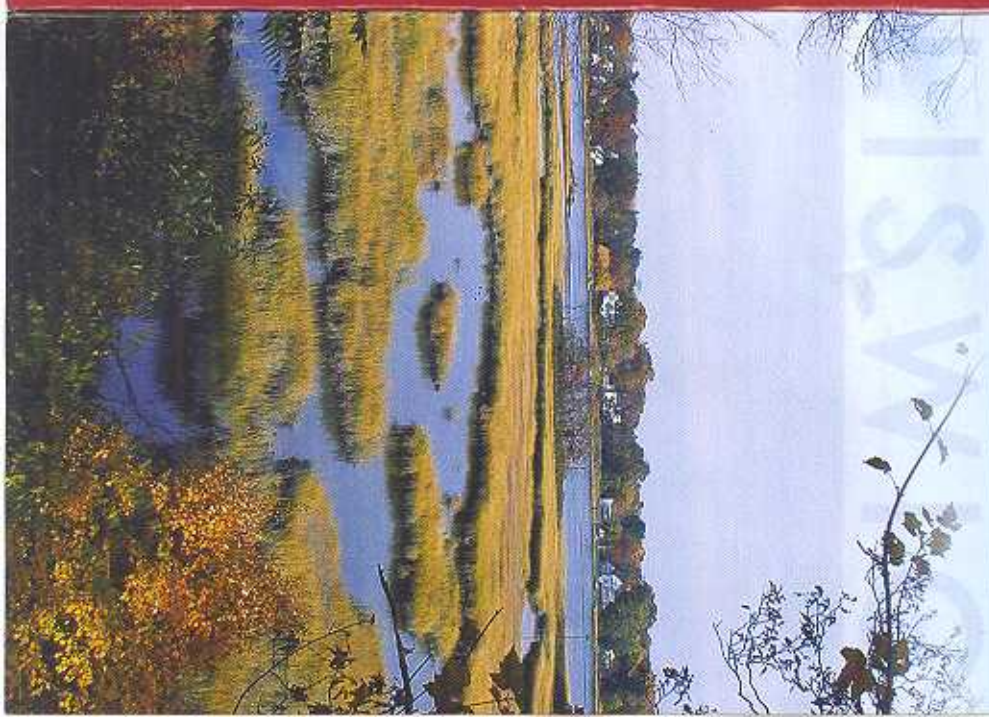
**Scarsdale, Town/Village of**  
[www.scarsdale.com](http://www.scarsdale.com)  
 Engineering Dept.: 722-1104



Long Island Sound Watershed  
 Inter Municipal Council  
[www.LISWIC.org](http://www.LISWIC.org)

## Correcting Improper Sewer Connections

### How You Can Help Clean Up Long Island Sound



## LONG ISLAND SOUND

The Long Island Sound is a national and regional treasure. We all rely on its health and vitality for recreation, tourism and transportation. It is true that water quality has improved significantly since the 1970's when sewage treatment plants were placed in operation. But, with all of these technological improvements, why are the beaches frequently closed after a heavy rainfall? Why do dead fish occasionally wash up on the shore by the thousands during the late summer? Why can't we harvest shellfish anymore?

## MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION

Westchester County has two separate sewer systems. The sanitary sewer system is designed to take sanitary sewage from plumbing systems to the sewage treatment plant where it can be treated before flowing into the Sound. The storm sewer system carries rainwater directly to the Long Island Sound without being treated.

Because of the age of the sanitary sewer and storm water sewer systems, cracks, leaks and faulty joints have developed, allowing storm water and groundwater to infiltrate into the sanitary sewer system. Improperly connected household roof leaders, driveway drains, yard drains and sump pumps take storm water and send it directly into the sanitary sewer system. During heavy rains,

this additional water overloads the sewage treatment plants, causing untreated sewage to be discharged directly into Long Island Sound. The discharge can cause beaches to be closed due to high bacteria levels. In some areas, the excess water can even cause sewer backups onto streets and into basements.

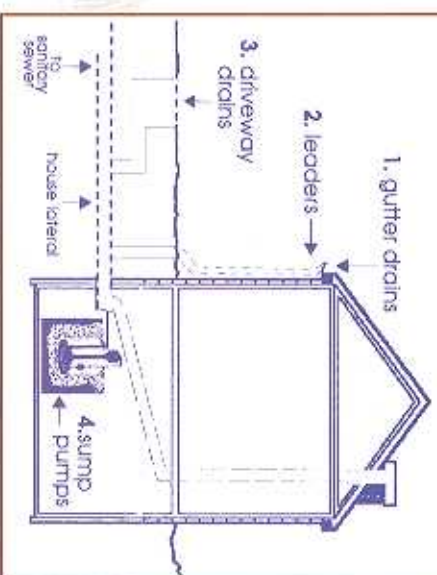
## CLEAN WATER MANDATE

Local municipalities have been mandated by the County, State and Federal governments to correct any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system and improve storm water quality. The County and local municipalities are repairing the cracks, leaks and faulty joints that exist in the municipal sanitary sewer pipes, but it is the responsibility of the individual homeowner to correct any illegal or defective connections to the sanitary sewer system that may exist and to reduce sources of storm water pollution on their property.



## CORRECTING ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

### EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS



- **Check Your Connections.** You may have not created the problem but as the homeowner, it is your responsibility to correct it. You may have bought your house not knowing an illegal connection exists, or a plumber or contractor that worked for you may have created the problem by not knowing or not following the laws. Illegal connections violate both the County's sanitary code and local municipal codes.

Failure to correct these problems now may impact the future sale of your home. Corrective action may be as simple as diverting roof leaders a few feet away from your home or business, reconnecting a driveway drain to the storm water system or to a drywell located on your property.