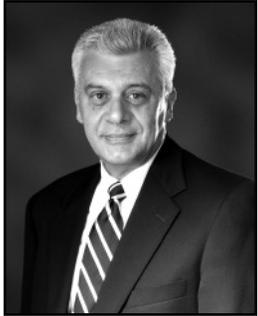


A Message From Town Supervisor JOHN VENDITTO



Dear Resident,

On streets throughout the Town of Oyster Bay, residents can watch rainwater travel along the curb until it disappears into an opening called a catch basin. As the name implies, it is a basin designed to catch the storm water runoff, but it does a lot more.

This brochure is designed to better acquaint you with the purpose and importance of catch basins and what you can do to help keep them clean. I hope you will find it informative and helpful. Remember, clean water is everyone's concern, and even something as simple as not tossing garbage or dumping used motor oil into a catch basin can go a long way toward helping us protect our precious underground water supplies and local waterways.

Very truly yours,


JOHN VENDITTO
TOWN SUPERVISOR

P.S. I haven't forgotten about sumps. Many catch basins drain into sumps, thus the connection. You'll read more about sumps later on.

Another common misconception is that sumps should always have water in them. Again, this is not the case. The faster a sump lets water into the the ground, the more effective it is. Any water that does not seep into the ground is evaporated by the sun and air.



TO REPORT A PROBLEM

Normally, there are few problems associated with catch basins or sumps. If a catch basin is overflowing or in need of cleaning, or if there is a problem with a sump, call the following:

- Catch basin on a Town of Oyster Bay road or a Town sump: 677-5757
- Catch basin on a Nassau County road or a Nassau County sump: 571-8701
- Catch basin on a State road or a State sump: 935-6111 (north of Old Country Road)
222-1936 (south of Old Country Road)

When reporting a problem with a sump, it is helpful to have the number of the sump. It appears on a sign located on the entrance gate to the sump.

Town Supervisor
JOHN VENDITTO



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JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor

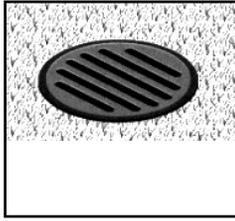
Everything You Want to Know About Catch Basins (and Sumps)



Web Site Address:
www.oysterbaytown.com

WHAT IS A CATCH BASIN?

Catch basins, also called storm drains or storm water drains, are the entry points along a roadway or parking field for storm water runoff from rain or melting snow



to enter into the storm drainage system. These "mini-reservoirs" also provide a way to rejuvenate, or recharge, the underground drinking water system. They do this by either directly recharging water into the ground or by allowing storm water runoff to flow through storm drainage pipes to recharge basins, commonly called sumps, where it seeps back into the underground water supply. Some storm drainage pipes also go directly into bays and harbors.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DEBRIS OR POLLUTANTS GET INTO A CATCH BASIN?

Anything that gets carried by storm water runoff...oil and anti-freeze from leaking cars, pesticides from lawns, pet waste, foam containers, plastic bags...goes into a catch basin. While the basin "traps" some of the litter, dirt and large debris that get washed into the system, a certain amount passes into the storm drains and ends up in our underground water supply and our waterways. Also, catch basins cannot effectively remove soluble pollutants, such as used motor oil, anti-freeze and pesticides, so these end up in our underground drinking water supply and our local waterways.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Even on a dry day, runoff is produced by such activities as car washing, over-watering of lawns and yard cleanup. The following are some steps you can take to minimize the amount of harm-

ful debris and pollutants going into our catch basins.

Catch basins are NOT garbage receptacles!

- Do not toss litter or garbage into them.
- Do not use a hose to clean up garden/grass clippings, dirt and litter from sidewalks. Sweep with a broom, but do not sweep them into the street or catch basin. Try composting trimmings and leaves.
- Properly use and store all household hazardous products. Dispose of unused household hazardous products through the Town's S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) collection program. For dates and locations, call 677-5943 or visit the Town's Web site, www.oysterbaytown.com
- Use pesticides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly. Use non-toxic products for your home and garden whenever possible. Dispose of unused garden products at a S.T.O.P collection program.
- Conserve water and reduce the amount of runoff by not over-watering your lawn.
- Divert rainspouts and other sources of runoff onto grass or vegetation, not onto driveways or sidewalks.
- Dispose of pet waste in trashcans or by flushing it down the toilet. Leaving it on the lawn sends harmful bacteria into the catch basins whenever it rains.
- Keep your car properly maintained to reduce leakage of oil, anti-freeze or other fluids.
- When changing car fluids, such as oil or antifreeze, use a drip pan to collect any spills. If a spill occurs, soak it up immediately using an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust and dispose of it properly.
- Wash your car with biodegradable soap using as little water as necessary. Shut off the hose

while washing your car and then rinse.

- A blocked storm drain is a common cause of street and/or yard flooding. If you have a catch basin in front of, or near, your home, make sure the opening remains free of leaves, sticks, rocks or other debris and, in the winter, clear of snow.
- Keep a trash bag in your car and use it! Do not throw **ANYTHING** out the window.

Only Rain Down the Drain



THE WHAT AND WHY OF SUMPS?

The Town of Oyster Bay has no large rivers or lakes from which to draw water, so we need to capture all we can from each rainfall and snow melt. Sumps are hooked up to storm sewer pipes. Water that comes through many catch basins flows through these pipes into the sumps, where it filters down into the underground water supply. This "percolation" process through the sands underlying the Town of Oyster Bay helps purify the water so it can be pumped by local water districts to our homes and businesses.

One of the most common misconceptions is that sumps are part of what is commonly called the sanitary sewer system. This is not the case. While some communities have combined sanitary sewer and storm drainage systems, the Town of Oyster Bay has two separate systems. The storm drainage system is under the aegis of the Town's Department of Public Works, and the sanitary sewer system is managed by the Nassau County Department of Public Works.

(Continued on back panel)