

## **“I have a Water Treatment System for my well water. What can be done with the backwash water?”**

Over the years, the Farmington Valley Health District has received many inquiries as to the proper method of wastewater or backwash disposal from water treatment systems, such as water softeners. The Connecticut Public Health Code Technical Standards Section X authorizes “.... a separate, dedicated disposal system .... be provided for any water treatment system wastewaters that discharge to the ground...” A DRAFT for a General Permit for the installation of such systems has been developed by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and a summary of the requirements follows. **Please be advised that it is a violation of the Public Health Code to discharge water treatment backwash wastewater into the septic system that serves the house.**

\*As of March 30, 2009 the CT Department of Public Health has authorized the disposal of point of use (i.e. water treated at a specific location such as a kitchen sink) reverse osmosis wastewater discharging less than 30 gallons per day from single family homes into the septic system serving the homes.

### **Guidelines for the Proper Disposal of Wastewater From Water Treatment Devices**

(Summary of requirements contained in the most recent Draft of the DEP General Permit)

- Discharges to the ground surface, foundation drain, storm sewer or septic system are NOT allowed.
- A separate, dedicated disposal system may be installed to receive wastewater from water treatment devices,
- This disposal system shall have a storage volume that is at least 1.5 times the volume of the maximum daily discharge of wastewater from the treatment device.
- There shall be a minimum of two (2) feet between the bottom of any such disposal system to underlying bedrock.
- There shall be a minimum of one (1) foot between the bottom of any such disposal system and maximum ground water.

- No portion of any such system shall be located within ten (10) feet of any component of a subsurface sewage disposal system serving the building.
- Disposal systems for water treatment devices must be at least 75 feet from any private well.
- Within thirty (30) days following the installation of a dedicated disposal system, the property owner or installer must submit an installation report to this office containing the following information:
  - the name of the installer
  - the address of the installed system
  - a detailed as-built drawing of the system, including a description of what was installed and separating distances from wells and septic systems.
  - a description of the water treatment device and its intended use.

***NOTE: The FVHD does not grant Permits or perform inspections of the installation of disposal systems for water treatment wastewater disposal. It is the responsibility of the contractor and/or the owner of the water treatment device to conform to all State regulations. Please call this office if there are any questions. (12/20/2007)***