

Welcome	<p>Welcome to the New York State Thruway. The Thruway Authority works hard to provide motorists like you with a safe and well-maintained superhighway system. Safety is a priority for the Authority, and not only for those who utilize the systems, but for the surrounding environment as well. Thruway projects include protecting air quality; using less energy in buildings; protecting and enhancing nature along the roadway, purchasing and using recycled products and protecting clean water by preventing water pollution from all facilities and operations.</p>
Water basics	<p>We all depend on clean water, and therefore have a responsibility to protect it. To do this, an understanding of how pollution can reach the rivers, lakes, and streams located within its watershed is needed. A watershed is a land area where all the water flows under it or off it drains to the same place. We all work and live within watersheds. When water flows through a watershed it can carry any pollution that it picks up along the way. This means that pollution spilled or dropped in a parking lot or on the ground can reach a river, stream or other body of water far away.</p>
Educational efforts	<p>The Thruway Authority's <i>Connecting the Drops</i> program reminds New Yorkers that water connects us all, and that what we drop in the environment can reach bodies of water and put aquatic life, recreation, or even our drinking water at risk. <i>Connecting the Drops</i> includes educating employees as well as motorists that use the Thruway. By working together, we can prevent water pollution.</p>
You can help	<p>There is a lot that you can do to help prevent pollution from cars, boats, pets, or other areas — First, routinely check your vehicle for leaks before you take a trip, and do not leave tires or car parts by the side of the highway. When walking your pet, pick up the waste and dispose of it properly – and never dump it in a storm drain. At home, you can also think about preventing stormwater pollution by keeping debris out of storm drains and avoiding applications of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, or using natural alternatives.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Together, we can all <i>Connect the Drops</i>, remembering that when water flows through a watershed it can carry any pollution that it picks up along the way. We can prevent pollution from being spilled or dropped in a parking lot or on the ground, so that it will <i>never</i> reach a clean river, stream, or lake. At the New York State Thruway Authority, we strive to prevent pollution of storm water runoff in our daily operations in order to keep New York's waterways clean. These efforts are just a component of our comprehensive environmental stewardship and sustainability program, which has become part of the overall mission to provide New Yorkers with a safe and well-maintained superhighway. The New York State Thruway Authority: We are working with you to protect clean water.</p>