

## YOUR CAR

- ◆ Do not rinse leaks or spills down the storm drain. Clean up fluids with sand or kitty litter and dispose of the material properly.
- ◆ Dispose of used motor oil and fluids at proper locations, such as the local auto center.
- ◆ Wash your car on your lawn instead of in your driveway to prevent detergents from washing into the storm sewer.
- ◆ Notify the Thruway Authority if you see oil puddles in their parking lots.



## YOUR PET

- ◆ Always properly cleanup after your pet.
- ◆ Do not dispose of pet waste in storm drains, culverts, ditches, lakes or streams.



## YOUR HOME

- ◆ Use phosphorus free detergents when washing your car or home.
- ◆ Plant vegetation on bare soils or cover with mulch to reduce erosion. Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant.
- ◆ Limit fertilizer and pesticide use on lawns and gardens. Have your soil tested and apply only what is needed. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain.
- ◆ Septic tanks require regular pumping and maintenance in order to prevent leaks.
- ◆ Reduce stormwater runoff by reducing the amount of impervious surface on your property; directing roof drains and gutters to rain barrels, gardens, and other vegetated areas; and using trees, shrubs, and other deep rooted plants to retain stormwater.



THE THRUWAY AUTHORITY IS WORKING TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER IN NEW YORK STATE. THE GOAL OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN IS TO PREVENT THE POLLUTION OF STORMWATER RUNOFF FROM ALL THRUWAY FACILITIES.

For additional information about the Thruway Authority's Stormwater Management Program, contact:

Environmental Services Bureau  
200 Southern Boulevard  
P.O. Box 189  
Albany, NY 12201-0189



Phone: (518) 436-3190  
[www.thruway.ny.gov/oursystem/environmental/waterquality.html](http://www.thruway.ny.gov/oursystem/environmental/waterquality.html)

# STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION



**CONNECTING  
THE DROPS**  
NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY:  
WORKING WITH YOU TO PROTECT  
CLEAN WATER

## What YOU can do to HELP

### Reduce Phosphorus and Nitrogen

## WHAT IS STORMWATER?

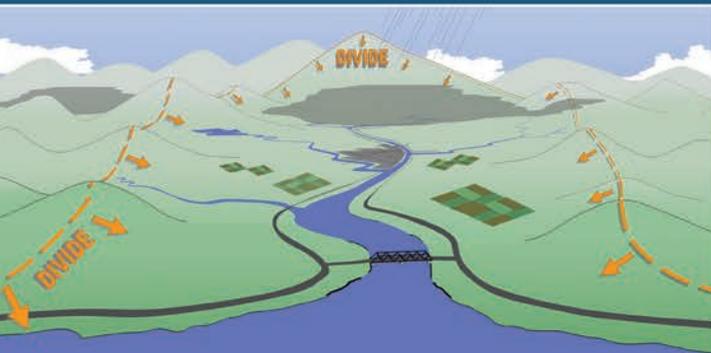


Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over the landscape. Impervious surfaces, such as roads, parking lots and buildings, prevent runoff from

entering into the ground. Stormwater enters lakes and rivers as runoff or is collected by a storm sewer. The storm sewer discharges untreated water directly into lakes and rivers.

## WHAT IS WATERSHED? WHY SHOULD WE PROTECT IT?

A watershed is a region in which surface and groundwater drain from high to low elevations into rivers and lakes. We all work and live within watersheds. 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.



## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PHOSPHORUS AND NITROGEN IN THE ENVIRONMENT?

Phosphorus and nitrogen play major roles in the production of energy and are key nutrients necessary for the growth of plants and animals.

## WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF PHOSPHORUS AND NITROGEN?

Phosphorus and nitrogen occur naturally in minerals and soil, animal waste, and plant material.

Runoff from agriculture and development, pollution from septic systems and sewers, and other human-related activities increase both inorganic nutrients and organic substances in aquatic ecosystems.



Even grass clippings and leaves entering the storm sewers can be a problem. Studies have shown that decomposition of these organic materials increase the levels of phosphorus in water bodies.



## HOW DOES PHOSPHORUS AND NITROGEN BECOME POLLUTION?

Like with our lawns and gardens, nitrogen and phosphorus stimulate aquatic plant growth.

Too much phosphorus and nitrogen accelerate the process of eutrophication in which estuaries, bays and lakes become marshes, swamps and bogs.

Plant growth on the water surface prevents sunlight from reaching plants deeper in the water. When these plants die and decompose, it depletes the oxygen needed by aquatic animals. Algal blooms can also clog plumbing, and create foul tasting and smelling water.

