

### YOUR TRASH AND CIGARETTES

- ◆ Put your cigarette butts and other trash in the garbage, not on the ground.
- ◆ Do not empty ash trays in parking lots or waterways.
- ◆ When boating, put your trash in bags and dispose of it when you come ashore.
- ◆ Never litter out of your car or boat.



### ILLEGAL DUMPING

- ◆ Never dump oil or other fluids in storm drains, culverts, ditches, or waterways.
- ◆ Empty portable toilets at pump stations, not into waterways.
- ◆ What is dumped or spilled on roads and in parking lots will eventually reach NY's canal, lakes, rivers or streams.



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

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



## What you can do to help



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# STORMWATER RUNOFF

can be rain or snowmelt. It flows over roofs, lawns and pavement and is then carried by pipes, culverts and ditches to lakes and streams.



## THIS RUNOFF CAN BECOME POLLUTED

by the litter, dirt, chemicals and oils it picks up along the way, and it often flows into the water used for swimming, fishing and drinking.



# CONTAMINATED RUNOFF CAN HARM PLANTS, ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

**OIL and OTHER CHEMICALS** like pesticides, fertilizers, paints and motor oil can poison fish and other plants and animals that live in the water. People and animals that drink this water or eat the fish can become sick.



**DEBRIS** such as plastic bags, six-pack rings and cigarette butts that reach waterways can choke or suffocate ducks, fish, turtles or birds.



**BACTERIA and PATHOGENS** from pet waste or failing septic systems can reach swimming areas. This is a health hazard and often causes beach closures.

**NUTRIENTS** from fertilizers or detergents stimulate the growth of algae. When these algae die and decompose, this depletes the supply of oxygen for fish and other organisms.



**SEDIMENT** from soil erosion clouds water, destroying places where plants and aquatic animals live.

# WHAT CAN I DO?

You can prevent stormwater pollution by:

## YOUR CAR

- ◆ Routinely check your car for leaks.
- ◆ Do not leave tires or other car parts on the side of the highway.
- ◆ Notify the Authority when you see oil puddles in service area parking lots.



## YOUR BOAT



- ◆ Do not discharge water that is oily.
- ◆ Do not use detergents to clean bilge.
- ◆ Use non-toxic, phosphate-free biodegradable cleaners.

- ◆ Clean boat bottoms ashore, where all debris can be contained and cleaned up.
- ◆ When fueling, avoid spilling or overfilling and keep oil absorbing pads aboard.

## YOUR PET

- ◆ Always pick up your pet's waste.
- ◆ Flushing pet waste is the best option.
- ◆ Do not dispose of pet waste in storm drains, culverts, ditches, lakes or streams.

