

## KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN

New York has 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, 4,000 lakes and ponds, 2.4 million acres of wetlands and extensive aquifers. These abundant resources need your protection to remain clean. Human activities leave behind materials like pesticides, pet waste, trash and even loose soil that can wash into our waters and pollute them. Even where you don't see a stream or lake, streets, roadside ditches and underground storm sewer carry polluted runoff into the closest water body.

Your positive actions can do much to protect New York's waters.

### 10 simple steps that can have an impact:

1. Don't dump ANYTHING down storm drains. Oils, chemicals, soaps, etc. pollute our streams and lakes.
2. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and always follow label instructions.
3. Put litter in its place (trash cans or recycling bins).
4. Pick up after your pet.
5. Sweep driveways (don't spray wash).
6. Collect yard waste and keep it out of storm drains. Compost! Even grass clippings and excess leaves don't belong in our streams and rivers.
7. Use a commercial car wash (they treat and recycle wash water) or wash vehicles on grassy areas.
8. Recycle used motor oil.
9. Check your car for leaks (and fix them).
10. Have your septic tank inspected every 3 - 5 years.