

Discharging Pool & Spa Water

Best Management Practices



Everyone should be aware that the discharge of pollutants into the storm drainage system, or into surrounding water bodies, is prohibited by local ordinance and state and federal law. Water from residential pools and hot tubs is not considered storm water and should not be discharged directly to storm drains, unless the following applies.

General Dos and Don'ts of Pool and Spa Discharging

Do:

- ◆ Neutralize your pool water prior to discharge to the storm drain by adding a chemical dechlorinator (available from pool supply stores) or by letting the water decrease on its own to a pH level between 7.2 and 7.8.
- ◆ Let the water filter over a grassy or landscaped area on its way to the storm drain.
- ◆ Use copper algaecides only when necessary, such as when less toxic algae control products are ineffective.
- ◆ Discharge pool water to the storm drain only if you know it doesn't contain harmful concentrations of chlorine and copper. A pool maintenance company, pool supply store can help you determine the concentration of chlorine and copper in your pool.
- ◆ Maintain proper chemical balance and filtration in your pool. This will minimize the need to drain the pool and prevent unnecessary corrosion of copper pipes and equipment.

POOL WATER DISCHARGE

Do:

- ◆ Dispose of wastewater from washing cartridge filters in a landscape area, never directly into the street, paved driveways, or a street drain.
- ◆ Be sure your pool maintenance service follows all discharge requirements.

Don't:

- ◆ Discharge pool or spa water to the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Drain your pool or spa water if there has been a recent application of herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers.
- ◆ Discharge pool water containing copper to the storm drain. Copper in your pool can come from some algae control products and copper plumbing and equipment, particularly heaters. Typical recommended dosages for copper algaecides are about 100 times higher than other concentrations that are toxic to many aquatic organisms.
- ◆ Discharge swimming pool water containing chlorine at levels higher than 0.01 parts per million (ppm) to the storm



drain. Chlorine levels higher than 0.01 ppm are harmful to aquatic organisms. The typical chlorine level maintained in a swimming pool is 2-4 ppm.

**Placer County Department of
Public Works, Stormwater Quality
Division**

**Phone: (530) 745-7555
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
Auburn, CA 95603**

Email:

stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov

Or visit us on the web at

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater>