

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## Swimming Pools

### Maintenance and Cleaning

Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning; consistent adequate chlorine levels, and well maintained water filtration and circulation systems.

- Do not use copper-based algacides.
- Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives, such as sodium bromide.

Manage pH and water hardness to minimize corrosion of copper pipes.

Discharge pool and fountain water properly.

- When draining pools or fountains, never discharge water to a street or storm drain, discharge to the sanitary sewer if permitted to do so.
- If draining a pool to the sanitary sewer, prevent backflow by maintaining an "air gap" between the discharge line and the sewer line (do not seal the connection between the hose and sewer line).
- Be sure to call the local sewer authority for guidance on flow rate restrictions, backflow prevention, and handling special cleaning waste (such as acid wash).
- Keep discharge flows to the low levels. Higher flow rates may be prohibited by local ordinance.
- If water is dechlorinated with a neutralizing chemical or by allowing chlorine to dissipate for a few days (do not use the facility during this time), the water may be recycled/reused by draining it gradually onto a landscaped area. Water must be tested prior to discharge to ensure that chlorine is not present.
- Provide drip pans or buckets beneath drain pipe connections to catch leaks. This will be especially pertinent if pool or spa water that has not been dechlorinated is pumped through piping to the sanitary sewer (if permitted).

Properly clean and/or dispose of filters.

- Never clean a filter in the street or near a storm drain. Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area, and work filter residue into soil.
- Backwash diatomaceous earth filters onto dirt. Dispose of spent diatomaceous earth in the garbage. Diatomaceous earth cannot be discharged to surface waters, storm drainage systems, septic systems, or on the ground. If there is not a suitable dirt area, discharge filter backwash or rinsewater to the sanitary sewer if permitted to do so by the local sewer agency.

Training

- Train employees on appropriate BMP implementation, storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements and proper spill containment and cleanup.

