What is Swimming Pool Storm Water Pollution?

Unlike the wastewater that flows through the sanitary sewer system to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District treatment facility, water that flows through the storm drain system is not treated. It is released directly to local waterways. As a result of these factors, urban runoff (also called nonpoint source pollution) remains the nation's largest source of water quality problems, according to the U.S. E.P.A.

The primary concern when dealing with pool maintenance is that chlorine or chloramines are used as a disinfectant. If this polluted water is discharged into the storm drain system and waterways it can be toxic to aquatic life.

Swimming pool water contains a range of water treatment products such as chlorine, salt and acid, and filtration media (sand, diatomaceous earth). It also contains dirt particles (sediments), wind blown materials such as leaves and lawn cuttings, as well as body oils, sunscreen residuals and potentially harmful bacteria. Therefore, if pool water is discharged into the storm drain system it can pollute our waterways.

To report illegal dumping or illicit connection to the City's storm water system, please call non-emergency dispatch at
(916) 617-4850

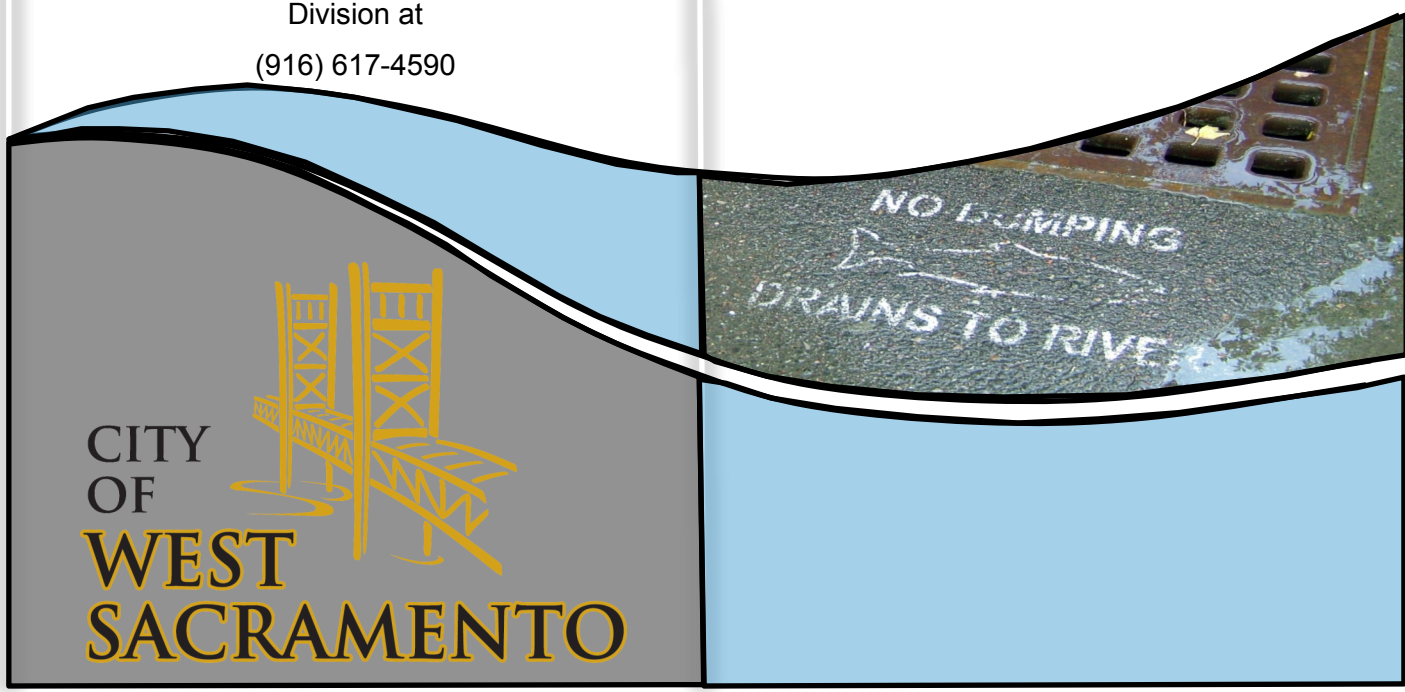
For more information regarding the state's policies on Storm Water Pollution please visit their website at
www.calepa.ca.gov and visit the Storm Water page.

For specific questions you can visit our website at
www.cityofwestsacramento.org/stormwater
or contact our Environmental Services Division at
(916) 617-4590

CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO

Pool Draining

Storm Water Pollution Prevention in the City of West Sacramento



Draining Your Swimming Pool

There are three options for draining your swimming pool. Please note that whichever method you choose, you must first **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

Here's how:

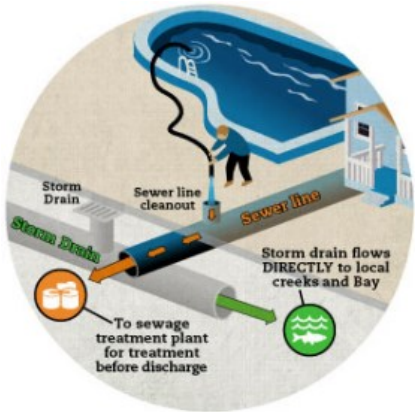
- Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5-10 days without adding any chlorine. Operate the filter system to keep water circulating in the pool to speed up the dechlorination process.; or
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive
- Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.
- Dispose of filter material and collected debris in the trash.

Option 1: The Sanitary Sewer System

Draining your pool into the sanitary sewer is the preferred option. Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer which can be used if and only if the pool water has been **dechlorinated.**

Follow these steps:

- Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub.



- Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps no more than 50 gallons per minute.
- Pump the water from the pool to cleanout or indoor drain
- Replace all cleanout covers when finished

DO NOT drain swimming pool water to your Septic System as it may cause system failure. It is not advisable to connect a hose to your indoor toilet to drain your swimming pool. In most cases, water being pumped from your pool will drain faster than the time needed for flushing and refilling.

If you are unsure if the discharge from your pool will create a problem in the sanitary sewer system, you may contact the Public Works Department at (916) 617- 4850

Option 2: Your Lawn

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass/turf/or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, **if and only if..**

- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain).
- You do not cause harm to the natural environment.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry ground, or soak into mulched areas. Please be sure to regulate the rate of discharge so that it does not cause problems such as erosion, flooding or overburden any downstream drainage facilities.

Option 3: The Storm Drain

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain only after all the following conditions are met:

- Other disposal methods (i.e. sanitary sewer or landscaping) are not possible.
- The pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated.** A home pool test kit to confirm that chlorine residual levels do not exceed 0.1 ppm.
- The pH of the water is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- There is no discharge of filter media.
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes, and the water is copper free.
- Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.
- Do not discharge filter backwash or rinse out the filter into the storm drain system.
- Never drain salt water pools to the street, curb, or storm drain because of high chloride levels. Salt water pools either need to go through reverse osmosis or be shipped to an ocean discharge facility.

If these levels are exceeded, the discharge can be considered to be an illicit discharge and a violation of West Sacramento Municipal Code