PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER

Don't Drain Pools, Spas and Fountains to Storm Drains

When pools are drained into streets, the water flows into storm drains and then straight to local creeks and the San Francisco Bay. It does not go to a wastewater treatment plant first. Water from pools, spas and fountains contain chemicals harmful to fish and aquatic plants living and growing in our watersheds, creeks and Bay. Help contribute to preserving a healthy watershed by using these recommended practices to maintain your pools, spas and fountains

Drain Properly

- Drain pool, spa or fountain water to a sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Don't drain water into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- Draining water that contains copper algaecide or residual chlorine to a storm drain is prohibited.
- Contact your local stormwater agency for assistance with locating the sanitary sewer.

General Maintenance

- Keep your pool, spa or fountain well-maintained with a balanced pH to reduce the need for chemicals or drainage.
- Avoid using copper based algaecides. Ask your pool maintenance service or store for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algaecides.
- Select pool products with reduced phosphate. Without phosphate, algae cannot thrive.

Cleaning

- Never clean filters in the street, gutter or storm drain.
- If you need to clean your pool filters, rinse over landscaped areas.
- Fresh water will dilute the chlorine so it won't harm plants or grass.
- Clean sand and diatomaceous earth filters onto a dirt area.
- Keep backwash out of the street and storm drain.
- Dispose of spent filter materials in the trash.

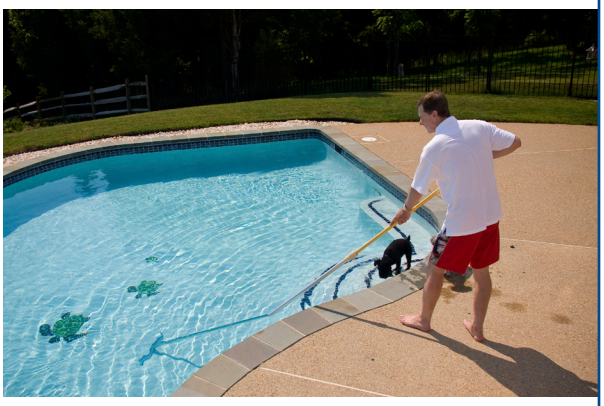
cleanwater PROGRAM

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

cleanwaterprogram.org

Keep pool, spa and fountain water out of gutters, streets and storm drains.

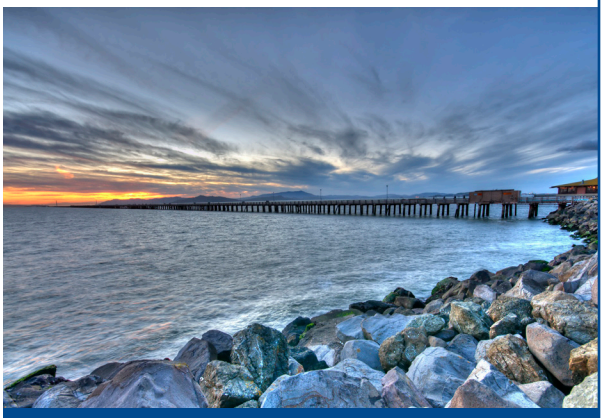
Only Rain to the Storm Drain.



Reduce draining by maintaining your pool.

Draining pools, spas, and fountains to storm drains can pollute our creeks and the Bay. Discharge should be directed to sanitary sewer drains.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.



Did You Know...?

- Chlorine is an effective sterilizer that kills bacteria in pool water. Chlorinated water similarly kills sensitive fish and animals essential to healthy creeks and watersheds.

- Even small amounts of chlorine are harmful to fish. Dozens of fish were killed after a drinking water pipe burst sending thousands of gallons of chlorinated water into a San Francisco Bay area creek in 2013.

- Copper is used to destroy algae in pools, spas and fountains. When copper-treated water enters our creeks and waterways it has a similar effect on the plants and organisms in these environments. Copper additives are highly toxic to most aquatic species even in small amounts.

- Most wastewater treatment plants can remove some, but not all copper. It is essential to reduce or eliminate the use of copper in pools, spas and fountains to protect our waterways.

- Phosphate is an effective plant nutrient that promotes algae growth in creeks. Algae blooms in creeks reduce the amount of oxygen in the water and cause warming of creeks to levels that damage fish and plant life dependent upon a clean water to survive.

KEY DEFINITIONS

A ***Cleanout*** is a pipe fitting with a removable plug for inspecting and cleaning out sewer drain pipes.

The ***Storm Drain System*** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

The ***Sanitary Sewer System*** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

cleanwater PROGRAM

cleanwaterprogram.org

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Simple changes to your operations and maintenance can help you comply with local regulations. The Clean Water Program makes it easy.

Learn more about preventing water pollution and the Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org.

For More Help

For advice and approval on wastewater disposal to the sanitary sewer system, contact:

Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland or Piedmont

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)..... (510) 287-1651

Castro Valley

Castro Valley Sanitary District .. (510) 537-0757

City of Dublin

Dublin-San Ramon Services District..... (925) 828-0515

Cities of Fremont, Newark or Union City

Union Sanitary District ..... (510) 477-7500

City of Hayward

City of Hayward ..... (510) 881-7900

City of Livermore

City of Livermore ..... (925) 960-8100

City of Pleasanton

City of Pleasanton ..... (925) 931-5500

Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated portions of San Leandro and Hayward

Oro Loma Sanitary District ..... (510) 481-6971

City of San Leandro

City of San Leandro..... (510) 577-3401

Local Stormwater Agencies

For advice on avoiding disposal to the storm drain system, contact:

Alameda.....(510) 747-7930
Albany .....(510) 528-5770
Berkeley.....(510) 981-7460
Dublin .....(925) 833-6650
Emeryville .....(510) 596-3728
Fremont .....(510) 494-4570
Hayward .....(510) 881-7900
Livermore .....(925) 960-8100
Newark .....(510) 578-4286
Oakland .....(510) 238-6544
Piedmont.....(510) 420-3050
Pleasanton .....(925) 931-5500
San Leandro.....(510) 577-3401
Unincorporated Alameda County.....(510) 567-6700
Union City.....(510) 675-5301
Clean Water Program.....(510) 670-5543

August 2013