

POOL DRAINAGE GUIDELINES

WHAT IS A WATERSHED & WHY IS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

A watershed is the land area that drains stormwater into streams, rivers, or other bodies of water. The storm drain system consists of a network of gutters, pipes, and open channels designed to manage flooding by directing untreated stormwater away from our communities. The untreated stormwater can be harmful to our local environment and aquatic life.

HOW DOES POOL DISCHARGE AFFECT THE WATERSHED?

Water treated with chemicals such as chlorine, bromine and salt enters surface waters, into local water quality and is toxic to wildlife and fish. Pools, hot tubs and fountains often use chemically treated water; however, most of the chemically treated water discharged into storm drain systems and ultimately water bodies—is from residential swimming pools.

1. Prepare the Pool Water

- Swimming pool and spa water must be de-chlorinated or de-brominated using holding time, aeration, and/or sodium thiosulfate. Chlorine residual in the discharge shall not exceed 0.1 mg/L.
- Swimming pool discharge shall not contain any detergents, wastes, or algacides, or any other chemicals including salts from saltwater pools.
- Balance pH: Ensure the water's pH level is between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units.

2. Determine the Drainage Method

- Storm Drain System: Notify the City at least 72 hours prior to a planned discharge for discharges of 100,000 gallons or more.
- Landscaping: It is recommended to drain water gradually into landscaped areas on your property, as long as it doesn't cause erosion or runoff onto neighboring properties.
- Volume control: Swimming pool discharges shall be volumetrically, and velocity controlled to promote evaporation and/or infiltration.

3. Follow Best Management Practices

- For discharges of 100,000 gallons or more, immediately prior to discharge, inspect and clean out of all pre-existing trash and debris in the discharge pathway and the storm drain inlet to which the discharge is directed to.
- Discharges of cleaning wastewater and filter backwash are only allowed if authorized by a separate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

