

POOL MAINTENANCE

Stormwater Best Management Practices



**ONLY RAIN
BELONGS
DOWN THE
DRAIN!**

Protect Our
Waterways and Help
Prevent Pool Cleaning
Waste From Entering
Storm Drains



Storm drainage systems are designed to prevent flooding by collecting stormwater when it rains. This stormwater flows over surfaces, picks up pollutants, and eventually discharges into lakes, streams, and rivers. Unfortunately, there is no treatment process in the storm drain system to filter out pollutants before they reach downstream waters.

Discharges from residential and commercial swimming pools can impact water quality and aquatic life if done improperly. For this reason, It is important to understand how proper pool maintenance can help keep our waterways clean by following Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. BMP's are methods or activities that may help prevent stormwater pollution.

The quality of our waters depends on your actions. We can work together to protect our local water quality and comply with local, regional, and state regulations!

Report Spills or Stormwater Pollution to Stormwater
Utility Administrator, Danon Lawson at
704-869-1013 or danonl@cityofgastonia.com

For more information, visit:
<https://regionalstormwater.org/report-pollution/>



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CLEANING

- Clean the pool, hot tub, or fountain regularly, maintain proper chlorine levels and maintain water filtration and circulation. Doing so will limit the need to drain the facility.
- Never clean a pool filter in the street or near a storm drain. Release in a vegetated area once water is dechlorinated and if the area is not connected to a sanitary sewer system.
- Store pool cleaners and chemicals indoors or in a containment area that reduces exposure to outdoor elements.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning, consistent adequate chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation systems.
- If the dechlorination process selected requires the water to be stored for a time, it should be contained within the pool or appropriate temporary storage container, away from streets and storm drains.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train employees on these BMP's, stormwater discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
- Establish training that provides employees with the proper tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up any type of spill.
- Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Dechlorinate water with a neutralizing chemical or allow chlorine to dissipate for a few days before another chlorine treatment in order to recycle or reuse water.
- Try to avoid using copper based algaecides, since copper is toxic to plant life. Instead use chlorine, organic polymers or other alternatives.
- Routinely ensure that the pool system is free of leaks and operates within the design parameters.

DRAINAGE OF WASTEWATER

- Always contact your local water/sewer department prior to discharging into the sanitary sewer system.
- Pool water must be dechlorinated to no measurable chlorine before reaching receiving water. If the water is not dechlorinated it must be discharged to the sanitary sewer if permitted.
- If discharging into the storm drain system, test water prior to discharge to ensure that chlorine is not present. Ensure chlorine is 0 and the pH is between 6-9.

DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER CONT.

- Chlorine Pools: Test the water. Chlorine levels must be at 0 and pH must be between 6-9 BEFORE pumping the water to a storm drain, creek, or lake!
- Chlorine will evaporate if the water sits for about a week. The warmer the weather, the quicker the chlorine evaporates, so it may not take 7 days. Dechlorination tabs may be used to dechlorinate.
- Salt Water Pools: Please NEVER allow a contractor to pump salt water into a storm drain, creek or lake. It can hurt/kill aquatic life like frogs, fish & organisms they eat.

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