

# Discharging Pool & Spa Water



## Know What's in Your Water

Pool water can contain chemicals such as chlorine and copper that are harmful to aquatic organisms.

- ◆ Only discharge pool water to the storm drain if you know it doesn't contain harmful concentrations of chlorine and copper.
- ◆ Chlorine levels higher than 0.01ppm are harmful to aquatic organisms. The typical chlorine level maintained in a swimming pool is 2 – 4 ppm.
- ◆ Neutralize your pool water before discharging to the storm drain by adding a chemical dechlorinator or by letting the water decrease on its own to a pH level between 7.2 and 7.8.
- ◆ Never drain your pool or spa water after a recent application of herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers.
- ◆ Only use copper algaecides when less toxic algae control products are ineffective.

## Before you Discharge

- ◆ Water testing or filtration through a basin, or sediment trap may be required. Consult with the Public Works Inspector at 916-625-5500 to determine what testing to do and to help interpret results.
- ◆ Ground water that gets contaminated by pool discharge must be treated or hauled off-site for proper disposal.
- ◆ Maintain the proper chemical balance and filtration in your pool. This will minimize the need to drain the pool and prevent unnecessary corrosion of copper pipes and equipment.



Copper and chlorine keep your pool clean because they are toxic to algae and other aquatic life.

## Safety First!

- ◆ Many pool chemicals and cartridges are hazardous waste when discarded. Contact Western Placer Waste Management Authority at 916-645-5230 for more information on how to dispose of these chemicals properly.
- ◆ Dispose of wastewater from washing cartridge filters in a landscape area, never directly into the street, paved driveways, or a street drain.
- ◆ Never clean diatomaceous earth (DE) filters, as the DE inside the filter cartridge is carcinogenic. Used cartridges should be treated as hazardous waste



## When you Discharge

- ◆ Never discharge pool or spa water to the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Let the water filter over a grassy or landscaped area on its way to the storm drain.
- ◆ Don't discharge pool or spa water during rainy conditions when the ground is already saturated.
- ◆ Be considerate of your neighbors by keeping all the water on your property. If necessary, use sandbags or berms to keep water from leaving your property.
- ◆ Be sure that your pool maintenance service follows all requirements for discharging water.



### Did You Know?

The average in-ground swimming pool holds 20,000 gallons of water.