

Keep POOLS AND SPAS from Polluting Our Local Creeks and Rivers



El Dorado County
Storm Water Management Program

Did you know that you may be harming your local creek or river if you drain your swimming pool or spa water into the storm drain? Water in pools and spas are treated with a variety of chemicals (such as chlorine and algaecides) to keep organisms from living in it; if that water is discharged to a storm drain, it will eventually reach a creek or river where the chemicals can cause harm. It is illegal to discharge chlorinated water to the storm drain system.

DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA

You can discharge non-hazardous wastewater to a dirt or vegetated area on your property so the waste-water can soak into the ground. The dirt or vegetated area must have the capacity to absorb all wastewater without any runoff.

If you need to drain your pool or spa, it is best to discharge the water to the sanitary sewer, since the sanitary sewer system is conveyed to a treatment plant where it is designed to remove most chemicals found in pools and spas. Your pool may have a permanent indirect connection to the sanitary sewer. You can pump the water from the pool or spa into an interior laundry sink or other plumbing fixture or to a sewer cleanout (typically located in your front and/or back yard). Never open a manhole to discharge the water!

You can discharge pool or spa water to a storm drain ONLY if the water is considered to be dechlorinated/debrominated swimming pool discharge, will not increase or decrease the temperature of the nearest creek or stream, and is at a flow rate that does not cause damage to the storm drain system or cause erosion or sediment to discharge downstream.

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards definition for Dechlorinated/Debrominated Swimming Pool Discharge is any swimming pool discharge with a residual chlorine or bromine level of 0.02 mg/L or less; and does not contain any detergents, wastes, algaecides, or cyanuric acid in excess of 50 ppm, or any other chemicals including salts from pools commonly referred to as “salt water pools”. The term does not include swimming pool filter backwash or swimming pool water containing bacteria.

Most unwanted pool chemicals must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Pool owners can contact El Dorado County Environmental Management to find out where to dispose of hazardous waste or review their website @ <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd/solidwaste/index.html>

For additional information on this topic, please review these links or call the El Dorado County Storm Water Coordinator at 530 621-5927

El Dorado County Storm Water Pollution Prevention
<http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd/solidwaste/storm.html>

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

These steps are important steps to follow:

You may be subject to enforcement action if the discharge causes toxicity, discoloration, turbidity, erosion, or other environmental harm.