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## **STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION DRAINING SPAS & POOLS**

There is a new focus for cities throughout California; preventing pollution from swimming pool water discharges into the gutter and storm drain. Not only is it illegal to wash concrete and paint residue into the gutters, but there are also considerations for draining spas and pools into the gutters and storm drains. Draining pools into the gutters and storm drains should always be the “last resort”. It is always preferable to drain pools and spas into the sewer system.

In-ground pools will typically have their own sewer connection (p-trap), so you can drain pool water<sup>1</sup> that is within normal chlorine and pH levels directly into the sewer. The following tips should be followed when draining pool water from an aboveground pool or from an in-ground pool where no plumbed connection from the pool to the sewer exists:

1. Find the sewer clean-out port to access the home sewer line. The port is usually about three or four inches in diameter and located in the ground, close to the home, and often near a water spigot. As long as precautions are taken, a laundry basin or washing machine drain inlet can also be used.
2. Use a small submersible pump, which does not exceed 12-gallons per minute maximum discharge rate.
3. Use a garden hose to connect discharge pump to sewer line (do not seal the connection).
4. To prevent back-ups to inside drains, closely monitor the discharge connection.
5. If problems are encountered, call a plumber or pool professional.

When draining the pool water to a sewer connection is not feasible, federal law allows for an alternate method of draining de-chlorinated swimming pool water<sup>2</sup>. In order to drain your pool onto your property or into the gutter/storm drain, you must be sure that the residual chlorine does not exceed 0.1 ppm (just stop chlorine treatments until levels are acceptable), the pH is between 6.5 and 8.5, there is no discharge of filter media, the water is free of any unusual color, and there are no excess acid cleaning products in the water drained.

For more information, call the Community Services Department’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program at (909) 364-2722.

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<sup>1</sup> Salt-water pools cannot be drained into the sewer system

<sup>2</sup> Hardy vegetation and rock areas within the pool owner’s property should be the primary discharge area for de-chlorinated pool water or diluted salt water discharge. Care should be exercised so as not to impact adjacent properties. Discharge to a City storm drain is permissible only after primary discharge areas are utilized.

Applications and fees are subject to change. Please visit our website for the most current version of this application.