

# POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF

## Factsheet for Pool Owners



After it rains, water flows off our yards, streets, parking lots, and driveways into the storm drains, and eventually into our streams, lakes, and bays. Unfortunately, this runoff picks up pollutants that flow directly into our local waterways. These pollutants can include soil, motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and litter. Many people mistakenly think that the water entering from our storm drains is cleaned or treated in some way. On the contrary, our storm drain systems channel water directly into our creeks. If our runoff water and stormwater is contaminated, it can become a major source of water pollution. This factsheet series is broken into seven different user groups who can help prevent stormwater from becoming polluted.

**Builders/Developers**

**Gardeners/Homeowners**

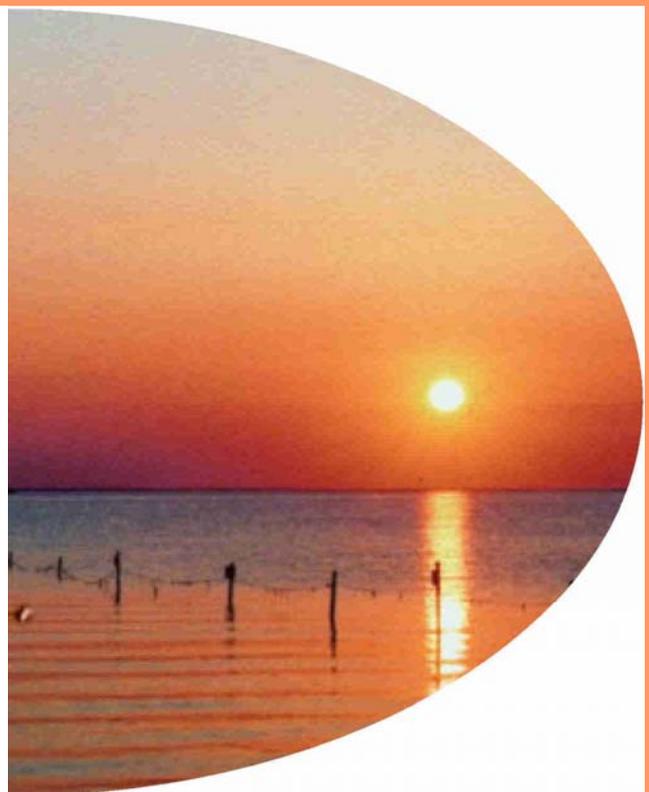
**Automotive Businesses**

**Restaurants**

**Car Owners**

**Pet Owners**

**Pool Owners**



# FACTSHEET FOR POOL OWNERS

## Polluted Stormwater Runoff

Although we enjoy the fun and relaxation of pools and spas, the water used in them can cause problems for our creeks, rivers, and oceans, if not disposed of properly. When you drain your swimming pool, fountain, or spa to the street, the high concentrations of chlorine and other chemicals found in the water flow directly to our storm drains. These drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants. The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rain water away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Improperly disposing of swimming pool water into storm drains is not only illegal, but it also may be harmful to the environment.

### Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are procedures based on today's best science that help to prevent pollutants from entering into our environment. Each of us can do our part to keep stormwater clean. Using these BMPs is one way to help protect our water.

Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm drain if it has been properly dechlorinated and doesn't contain other chemicals. The good news is that chlorine naturally dissipates over time. Monitor and test for chlorine levels in the pool over a period of three to five days. Drain the water before algae starts to grow.

Consider hiring a professional pool service company to clean your pool, fountain, or spa and make sure they dispose of the water and solids properly.

### Before discharging WATER FROM your pool, the water:

1. Must not contain chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, acid, or any other chemicals.
2. Cannot carry debris or vegetation.
3. Should have an acceptable pH of 7-8.
4. Can not contain algae or harmful bacteria (no "green" present).
5. Must be controlled so that it does not cause erosion.

### Pool Filters

Clean filters over the lawn or other landscaped area where the discharge can be absorbed. Collect materials on filter cloth and dispose into the trash. Diatomaceous earth cannot be discharged into the street or storm drain systems. Dry it out as much as possible, bag it in plastic, and dispose of it into the trash.

### Acid Washing

Acid wash water should not be drained to storm drains. Make sure acid washing is done in a proper and safe manner that is not harmful to people or the environment. It may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system through a legal sewer connection after the pH has been adjusted to no lower than 5.5 and no higher than 11.

### Do the Job Right

If possible, use the water for irrigation. If you do so, do not control algae with copper-based algaecides. Copper is harmful to the aquatic environment.