

Maintaining Your Swimming Pool

Do you know where the water goes?



The “DON’T DUMP !” signs are placed next to storm drains to remind everyone that gutters and storm drains carry rain as well as any pollutants directly to arroyos, creeks and the ocean without any treatment.

Proper Disposal of Swimming Pool Water

- Properly maintained pools should require draining no more than once every 5 years.
 - A permit may be required. Call 1-800-CLEANUP, your local agency prior to draining your pool.
 - Use a pool test kit to check the chlorine level *before* draining. Chlorine levels must be at or below 0.1 parts per million (ppm) to be drained into the street, gutter, or storm drain system. If the chlorine level exceeds 0.1 ppm, it must be reduced before draining by:
 - Waiting several days without adding additional chlorine.
 - Adding commercially available chlorine reducers. Visit your pool supply store.
- Regardless of the method chosen, always discontinue pool use when the chlorine drops below 1.0 ppm.
- De-chlorinated pool water must not pick up pollutants or cause a public nuisance while draining.
 - NEVER drain acid washing wastewater or other pool cleaning wastewater into the street, gutter, or storm drain system. ALWAYS check if you have any questions on how to properly handle the disposal of these wastes.

Proper Disposal of Pool Filter Backwash

- Filter material is never allowed to be placed in the street, gutter, or storm drain system.
- If no harmful chemicals are present, diatomaceous earth (DE) filter waste can be placed in the trash, or applied to your garden as a soil supplement.

Adding Chemicals to Your Pool

- Swimming pool chemicals can pose serious hazards.
- Always read the directions before using *any* pool chemical.
- Avoid the use of copper based algaecides! Copper levels can very easily build up to hazardous levels, killing aquatic organisms if drained into the environment. Instead, use hypochlorite shock treatment.

Hiring a Pool Service Professional

Pool service professionals should be held responsible for knowing the proper methods necessary to prevent pool chemicals from contaminating our environment. Make sure your pool service person follows the practices as outlined on the other side of this fact sheet. Only hire businesses who practice these pollution prevention measures.

