

Pool Maintenance

Maintaining pools involves the use of a variety of products that can contain pollutants. Chlorine, bromine, algaecide, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other pool chemicals are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from the backwash of pool filters can also be toxic or can fill in the spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. If spilled or disposed of improperly these contaminants can pollute our local creeks and sewer system and cause harm to the public and the environment.

The most important thing to know about sewers and storm drains is that they are two different systems. All outside storm drains flow directly to the nearest creek, where pollutants such as paint, oil, soap and chemicals can harm fish, wildlife, and people. Only the water that goes down a sink, toilet, or another inside drain flows to the wastewater treatment plant. Toxic material cannot be discharged to either system. Pool owners and managers can play a key role in helping to prevent damage to our local creeks and sewer system thus reducing the likelihood of costly cleanups.

As a valued member of the Santa Rosa business community, we know that you are invested in protecting the quality of life that your customers, Santa Rosa residents, and visitors enjoy.

Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas

- Never empty swimming pool water and chemicals to the storm drain. They must be drained to the sanitary sewer
- When cleaning pool filters, all collected materials and debris must go into the garbage

Draining Pools and Spas

- To drain a pool, first locate the sanitary sewer cleanout or an indoor drain (sink, toilet, or tub) that you can discharge to on the property where the pool is located
- Use a siphon or a sump pump that pumps 20 gallons or less per minute to the cleanout or indoor drain
- If you are draining more than 100,000 gallons, contact Environmental Compliance at (707) 543-3369 at least 24 hours in advance
- Do not drain pool or spa water into your septic system, as it may cause system failure
 - If the sewer system is not available, discharge only onto a landscape area or onto the ground where the water can soak into the soil
 - Take care that there is no flow off your property
 - Use sandbags or berms, if necessary
 - Do not discharge onto saturated soils or areas where there has been a recent application of herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers
 - Make sure the water is not cloudy, the pH is neutralized, and the chlorine or other disinfectant residual is below 0.1 milligrams/liter (parts per million)
- Another option would be to collect the pool water into a tank and transport it to a sanitary sewer treatment plant or allow it to slowly discharge to landscaped area
- Cleaning and emptying the pool in conjunction with any pool repair (including resurfacing, sand-blasting, painting, etc.) must be discharged to the sanitary sewer after treatment to remove solids

Cleaning the Pool Filter

- Backwash water must be collected, contained, and discharged to the sanitary sewer
- Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub, or over a lawn or other vegetated area ensuring no rinse water leaves the property or enters an outside drain
- Use a separation tank for Diatomaceous Earth (DE) and Cellulose Fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers
- To conserve water, direct the clean water back into the pool
- The DE or other filter material can be disposed of in the garbage

Pool Chemicals Storage and Handling

- Properly store and handle pool chemicals (chlorine, bromine, algaecide, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, etc.) to prevent any spills or discharges onto the ground or into a storm drain
- Hazardous materials and waste shall be stored in a manner that will prevent contact with rain water and run-off
- Maintain all hazardous materials in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and all applicable laws and regulations
- Promptly clean up spills and leaks when they occur

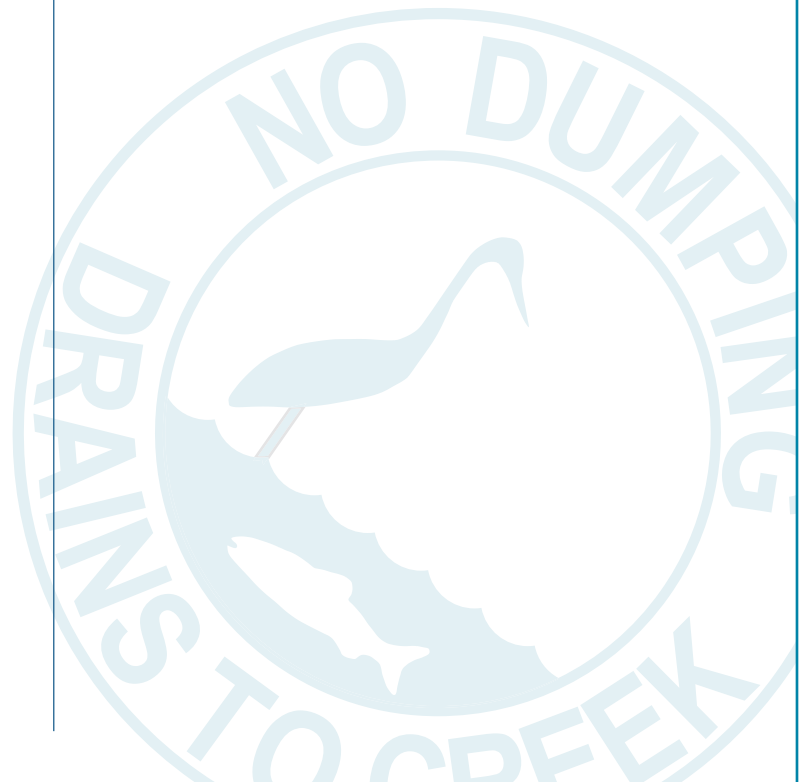
Are You Ready to Response to a Spill?

- Have a written plan- keep copies in all work vehicles and at your headquarters
- Train your employees on procedures and equipment use
- Have your plan and spill cleanup equipment accessible
- Know how to handle hazardous materials

Contact Information

- To report a spill call (707) 543-3800
- To report a hazardous material spill call 911 or (707) 528-5151
- For questions about discharging to the sewer call Environmental Compliance at (707) 543-3369
- For questions about storage or handling of hazardous materials call Fire at (707) 543-4108
- To get information of proper disposal of materials call (707) 565-DESK (3375), or go to www.recyclenow.org
- For help implementing these measure or if you have questions about storm water, call (707) 543-4200

Releasing pollutants into the storm drain system or a waterway violates the City's Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer Use Ordinances.



Contact information for businesses outside of Santa Rosa:



City of Cloverdale

Public Works Department

<http://www.cloverdale.net/index.aspx?nid=254>

(707) 894-1792



City of Cotati

Public Works/Engineering Department

<http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us/sections/departments/pw-storm-water.cfm>

During Business Hours: (707)665-3637

After Hours: (707)792-4611

Businesses in Cotati seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Fort Bragg

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>

(707) 964-5379



City of Healdsburg

Public Works Department

<http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=192>

(707) 431-3346



City of Rohnert Park

Public Works Department – Public Safety Dispatch

<http://www.rpcity.org/index.aspx?page=357>

(707) 588-3300

Businesses in Rohnert Park seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Sebastopol

Public Works Department for reporting issues

Engineering Department for questions

<http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/water-wastewater-storm-water>

During Business Hours: (707) 823-5331

After Hours: (707) 829-4400

Businesses in Sebastopol seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Ukiah

Public Works Department

<http://www.cityofukiah.com/?p=173>

(707) 463-6296



Mendocino County

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>



Sonoma County

PRMD Engineering

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-contact.htm>

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-spill.htm>

During Business Hours: (707) 565-2502

After Hours: (707) 573-1365 (REDCOM)



Sonoma County Water Agency

Public Works Department – Engineering Division

<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/storm-water/>

During Business Hours: (707) 521-1865



Town of Windsor

<http://www.ci.windsor.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=232>

(707) 838-5340