



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Swimming Pools and Spas

Pool and Spa Maintenance

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Swimming Pool and Spa Problems

Businesses that work with swimming pools and spas have the potential to contaminate our creeks and lakes. Wastewater from the draining and maintenance of swimming pools and spas can be a significant source of pollution that is harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and against the law. Common pollutants associated with pool and spa draining

include chlorine, bromine, copper, hydrogen peroxide, and acids. Maintenance can generate pollutants such as sediment, concrete, plaster and gunite.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for the swimming pools and spas industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.



For More Information

To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding the swimming pools and spas industry call 311 or visit <http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on Pollution Prevention.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

Pool and Spa Draining



Drain to Yard or Landscaped Area

A good option is to drain water to your yard or landscaped area if and only if you:

- ◆ Do not cause flooding or other nuisance conditions on adjacent properties (notify your neighbors first).

- ◆ Drain at a rate slow enough to not cause erosion.
- ◆ Drain at a rate slow enough and to an area that allows the water to percolate into the ground and not discharge into the storm drain system, ditch or creek. This may be difficult to do because most properties are designed to drain off site. If discharge into a storm drain or water conveyance may occur, then you must follow the practices listed under “Drain to Storm Drain System”.

Drain to Storm Drain System

You may drain water from your pool or spa into a storm drain, ditch or creek if and only if you:

- ◆ Dechlorinate the water below 0.1 milligrams per liter by allowing it to sit for one week without adding chlorine or by using a chemical dechlorination additive. Test the chlorine level with a pool testing kit before discharging.
- ◆ Do not add other chemicals for at least one week before draining.
- ◆ Ensure the pH of the water is between 6 and 9.
- ◆ Remove or strain out algae and debris.
- ◆ Discharge at a rate slow enough to not cause erosion.
- ◆ Saltwater pools and spas may never be discharged to the storm drain system because of high chloride levels. You must choose another draining method if you have a saltwater pool or spa.

Drain to Sanitary Sewer System

You may drain water to the sanitary sewer system as a last resort if and only if you:

- ◆ Contact Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Department - Systems Protection to obtain permission at 704-336-4407.
- ◆ Follow all requirements provided by the person you talk to at CMUD.

Filter Backwash

- ◆ Do not discharge filter backwash to the storm drain system, but rather to a landscaped area or sanitary sewer. Some pool filters have a direct connection to the sewer system.
- ◆ Dispose of filter material and collected debris in the trash.
- ◆ Rinse filters over your lawn or landscaped area.



Pool and Spa Maintenance



- ◆ Wastewater generated from plastering, grouting, guniting, acid washing and other activities may not be allowed to discharge into the storm drain system. Wastewater must be disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. Options include pumping directly into an on site sanitary sewer connection or pumping into a tank on your vehicle for off site disposal into the sewer system. Contact Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department at 704-336-4407 regarding their rules for disposal into the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Do not wash out equipment and tools used for repair work in an area that discharges to the storm drain system.

Visit stormwater.charmeck.org and click on **Pollution Prevention** for more information.