



Clean Pool & Spa Maintenance Practices

A well-maintained pool or spa should require draining no more than once every five to ten years. Prior to draining, contact your City (or County for unincorporated areas) Public Works department for permitting requirements.

Draining a Chlorinated Pool/Spa

- Discharge into the storm drain system:
 - Reduce the chlorine/bromine levels to a maximum of 0.1 ppm (parts per million).
 - Reduce the chloride to a maximum of 250 mg/L and the pH reading should be between 7 and 8.
 - Ensure the water is clear before draining.
 - Check to see the drainage path is clear so as to not pick up dirt, lawn clippings or other debris.
 - A pool that has been neglected and filled with leaves and debris may need specialized filtration. Check with the appropriate Public Works department for guidance.
- Discharge into the sanitary sewer system:
 - Contact your sewer service provider to determine if discharge into the sanitary sewer is allowed.
- Do not drain into a septic system.

Draining a Saltwater Pool/Spa

Fresh water streams can be harmed by additional salt. In some cities it may be illegal to drain saltwater into either the storm drains or the sanitary sewer system. You may be required to haul the water for disposal via truck. Contact your City or County Public Works department for additional information.

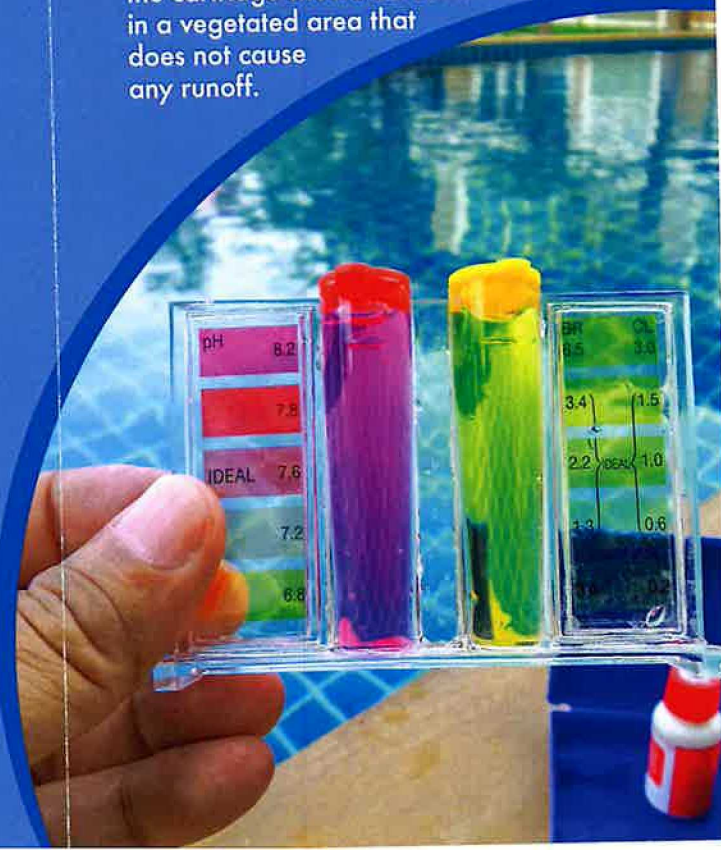
Pool/Spa Chemicals

- Homeowners are responsible for any chemicals illegally released into the environment. Prevent overuse by reading the directions before using any pool chemical.
- Maintain a proper pool pH level. Excess acid in a fiberglass pool can result in low pH conditions that can strip copper from heating coils, causing copper pollution.
- Control algae growth with hypochlorite shock treatment rather than environmentally harmful copper based algacides.



Disposal of Pool Filter Backwash

- Filter material, or backwash may not be disposed of in the street, gutter or storm drain system.
- Diatomaceous earth (DE) filter waste, free of harmful chemicals, should be bagged wet and disposed of in the trash. After the filter waste has been removed, the final rinse of the cartridge should be conducted in a vegetated area that does not cause any runoff.





How Can You Help Keep the Watershed Clean?

Preventable pollutants include both seen and unseen materials that accumulate in our yards, driveways, gutters, and streets that damage our watersheds.

You can do the right thing and keep preventable pollutants out of the storm drain system. Unlike sewer systems, storm drain systems direct runoff, untreated, straight into local waterways.

Simple changes in the way we care for our pools and spas can make a big difference in keeping our watersheds clean.

pwa.vcpublicworks.org/wpd



The Watershed Should Only Shed Water

The storm drain system is a vast network of gutters, pipes, and open channels, which direct runoff from the watershed straight into our waterways.

Whether your home is one mile or many miles from the Pacific Ocean, what starts in your yard can end up as toxic runoff and contribute to watershed pollution.

The Ventura County Community for a Clean Watershed program was established to protect Ventura County's watersheds by preventing stormwater pollution.

For more information on how to keep our watersheds clean, go to cleanwatershed.org.



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Watershed Protection Tips for Pools/Spas



What Is Our Watershed?

Our watershed is the total land area, including your yard, from which stormwater drains into arroyos, streams, rivers or other bodies of water. In Ventura County our primary watersheds drain into the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers, Malibu and Calleguas Creeks and the marinas and estuaries that flow into the Pacific Ocean.

