



## Fact Sheet

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



BMPs facilitate regulatory compliance; they go beyond meeting established minimum requirements. They are ways of carrying out your business activities that can significantly reduce the risk of pollution and may even save you money. They are good for your business, your customers and the environment.

### COMPLIANCE

State law mandates that local agencies set minimum standards to protect the sanitary sewer and storm drain systems. This Fact Sheet includes minimum standards for regulatory compliance set by CCCSD and by your city's Stormwater Ordinance.

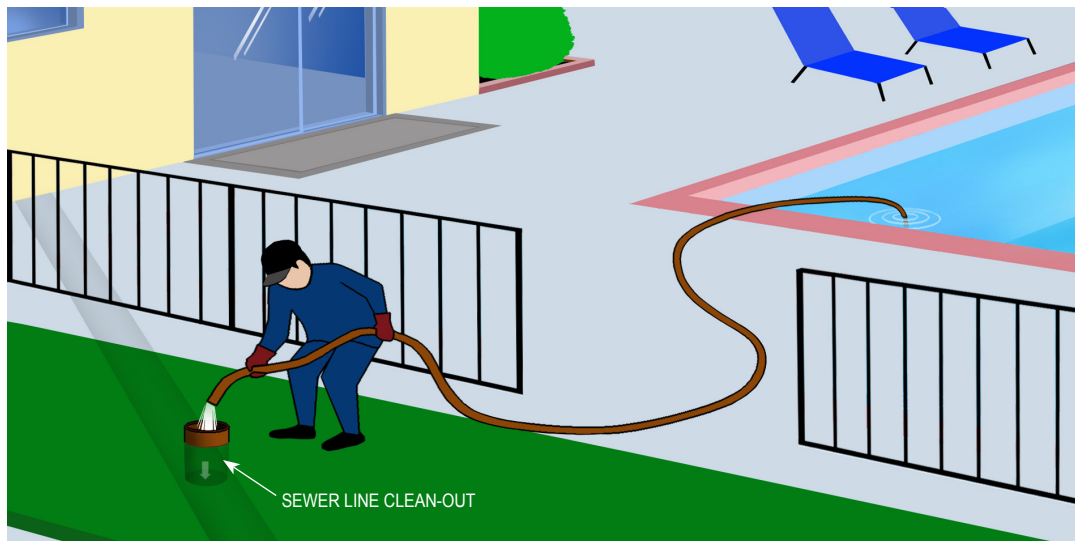
# Maintaining Pools, Spas, and Fountains

Routine maintenance of swimming pools, spas, and fountains generates a variety of wastes, such as filter backwash residues, algaecides, acid washes and solids. The wastes and chemicals in the water can negatively impact our environment when discharged improperly. Follow these minimum standards and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help protect public health and the environment.

### MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Never drain swimming pools, spas, or fountains to a storm drain.
- Obtain a discharge permit (there is no fee) for draining to the sanitary sewer.
- Route Diatomaceous Earth (DE) filter backwash water through a solid separator before discharging it to the sanitary sewer. No direct connection to the sanitary sewer is permitted.
- Dumping DE material or any other filter media into the sanitary sewer is prohibited.
- Ensure the water pH is between 5.5 and 11.5 pH units before discharging to the sanitary sewer.
- Ensure the water flow does not exceed the **maximum flow rate of 20 gallons per minute** when discharging to the sanitary sewer.
- Outdoor showers and drains connected to the sanitary sewer shall be roofed, bermed, and sloped to prevent stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer.
- If there are sanitary sewer drains in the chemical room, store all chemicals inside secondary containment\*. Ensure secondary containment has capacity to hold the biggest spill.

\***Secondary Containment:** A container or structural barrier placed under or around a receptacle and used as a second line of defense to hold the contents of the receptacle in the event of an accidental spill or leak.



Obtain a discharge permit (there is no fee) for draining to the sanitary sewer.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

- Do not use copper-based algaecides. Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives, such as sodium bromide (use of copper-based algaecides may limit options for proper disposal of water).
- Do not discharge acid cleaning waste into the sanitary sewer, street, or storm drain; pH neutralization may be required before discharge to the sanitary sewer.
- Do not drain a pool, spa, or fountain within 5 days of adding chemicals.
- For your protection, check to make sure no water is backing up into your house, your neighbor's house, or into the street during discharge. If the water backs up, turn off the pump. You may have a blockage (call a plumber if necessary), or the flow rate is higher than authorized by the permit.
- Store chemicals in the original containers with original labels.
- Keep containers closed when you are not using them.
- Read the printed information (e.g., MSDS\*\*) for chemicals and the instructions on the label and follow them carefully.
- Remember pool, spa, and fountain owners are liable for the practices of their contractors. Ensure your contractor follows the minimum standards and BMPs.

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\*\* **Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):** A document that contains information on the potential health effects of exposure to chemicals, or other potentially dangerous substances, and on safe working procedures when handling chemical products.

District inspectors may collect a sample of pool, spa, and fountain water to confirm compliance with the District's Local Discharge Limits.

For more information, call the **Environmental Compliance section at (925) 229-7288** or fill out a **Special Discharge Permit Application for pool, spa, and fountain water on our web site ([www.centrialsan.org](http://www.centrialsan.org))**.

### ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is one of a series created by CCCSD's Environmental Compliance Section to help you understand why and how to prevent water pollution. The contents are informational and summary in nature and do not constitute legal advice. For more information, call CCCSD's Environmental Compliance Section at

**(925) 229-7288**, or visit us at **[www.centrialsan.org](http://www.centrialsan.org)**

For information on how to prevent storm drain pollution, please visit the following web sites:

Contra Costa Clean Water Program: **[www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org)**  
Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies: **[www.basmaa.org](http://www.basmaa.org)**

For information on Environmental Health requirements,  
call the Contra Costa County Environmental Health Department at **(925) 692-2500**.

Other regulatory agencies you may wish to contact include:  
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District