

Plaster, grout, gunite, etc.: keep wastewater from plaster, grout, gunite, and other operations associated with the pool construction and repairs so that these materials do not enter the storm drains.

Never wash out wheelbarrows, tools, or associated containers near the street. Discharges of these materials to the storm drain are prohibited.

#### **THESE STEPS ARE IMPORTANT**

Remember to maintain the proper chemical balance and filtration in your pool and spa. This will minimize the need to drain the pool and prevent unnecessary corrosion of copper pipes and equipment. If you discharge or hire someone to discharge your pool or spa water to the storm drain, you may be subject to enforcement action if the discharge causes toxicity, discoloration, turbidity, erosion, or other environmental harm in the downstream water body. If you hire a pool maintenance company, protect yourself by making sure they follow all discharge requirements.

**NOTE:** You are legally responsible for any harmful or toxic effects caused by a release of your pool or spa water, even if you believed in good faith that the discharge was safe. Furthermore, you could be in violation of ordinance number 2009-15.

*To find out more about what you can do to prevent water pollution, contact the Public Works Department Stormwater Coordinator at (435) 656-6317 or [washingtoncity.org/stormwater](http://washingtoncity.org/stormwater)*



*Keep*

## **POOLS AND SPAS**

*From polluting our local reservoirs and rivers*

## **POOL WATER POLLUTES— DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY**

---

Did you know that you might be harming your local reservoirs or rivers if you drain your swimming pool or spa water into the gutter? Water in pools and spas are treated with a variety of chemicals, such as chlorine and algaecides to keep organisms from living in it; if that water is discharged to a storm drain, it will eventually reach a reservoir or river where the chemicals can cause harm. It is illegal to discharge chlorinated swimming pool water or pool water that contains biocides or other chemicals to the storm drain system.

## **LIMITS THAT APPLY TO STORM DRAINS**

---

You may discharge pool or spa water to a storm drain ONLY if the water is:

- ☞ Free of any chemicals in toxic amounts, including but not limited to chlorine, bromine, hydrogen, peroxide based products, copper, silver, algaecides, fungicides, soda ash, cyanuric acid and muriatic acid.
- ☞ Free of debris, algae, or vegetation.

- ☞ At a flow rate that does not cause damage to the storm drain system or cause erosion downstream.
- ☞ Not heated.
- ☞ To be sure you meet these conditions, you should do all of the following before discharging pool or spa water to a storm drain:
  - ☞ Know for certain that you have not added ANY chemicals other than chlorine or muriatic acid to your pool. (Over time, chlorine and muriatic acid either dissipates or are converted to non-toxic forms). Most chemicals that are added to pools are toxic to aquatic organisms. There are too many different pool chemicals to provide practical guidance on how to test for their presence or toxicity and how to evaluate test results. Also, testing may be quite expensive.
  - ☞ Be sure that your pool or spa water IS NOT treated with an ionizer or mineral purifiers.
  - ☞ Remove or filter out any debris, algae, or plants in the water.

## **POOL CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR**

---

During pool construction and excavation help minimize tracking of mud from your back yard onto the street. It is illegal to discharge sediment-polluted water from your pool excavation to the storm drain or waterway. Use one of the following options when dewatering:

- ☞ Pump water into a portable containment device and haul it to an approved disposal area.
- ☞ Pump water onto a vegetated area of the site for infiltration and filtration

## **MANAGING WASTE**

---

During pool construction, contain all waste material and dispose of them properly. Follow the tips below will help you manage most common pool wastes:

- ☞ Sediment (soil): if soil from the pool excavation work is stockpiled on the site, cover the sediment with a tarp and use sandbags or rocks to weigh the tarp down. Covering the sediment will help keep the soil from being blown or washed off the site where it can end up in the storm drains. Dispose of the soil by hauling it to an approved disposal site.