



Use proper equipment for pool and fountain cleaning. Contact your local hardware or construction material stores for available tools and materials for mobile pool and fountain cleaners including vacuum pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc.



City of Rancho Santa Margarita

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STORM WATER PROGRAM

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR POOL AND FOUNTAIN CLEANERS



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Best Management Practices for Pool and Fountain Cleaners

This brochure provides information about using best management practices (BMPs) for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wash water generated from pool and fountain cleaning.

Why should we be concerned with pool and fountain wash water discharge?

When water is left undisturbed in a pool or fountain for long periods it discolors sediment washing into the pool or foundation or from leaves decomposing in the water. The threat to fish is the lack of dissolved oxygen in the water and high chlorine levels that is discharged into the storm drain system. The implementation of the proper BMP's is required for compliance with State and local regulations which were developed to prevent water pollution and protect the public health.

Please note that it is unlawful for wash water or other non-storm water, generated by pool and fountain cleaners, to enter storm drains. Pool and fountain cleaners that do not prevent waste water from entering the storm drain systems are subject to Administrative Citations and/or fines.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Pool and fountain cleaners must use the following BMPs to comply with the City's water quality requirements and water pollution prevention:

- Minimize water use.
- Use cleaning products as described on their labels and dispose of properly. Even biodegradable products impact our waterways.
- Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning, consistently adequate chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation systems.
- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize corrosion of copper pipes.
- Discharge pool and fountain water over a grassy area to slow it down and aerate it.
- Properly clean and/or dispose of filters.
- Cleaning area must be contained so that water does not drain down streets and gutters- use sand bag berms, wattles, or bermed mats.
- Protect downstream storm drain inlet so that wash water does not enter storm drain. Protection must be placed before starting the washing process and removed before you leave the site.

Options for wash water management

- **Preferred Option:** Zero discharge or closed-loop recycled water
- **Second Option:** Discharge into municipal sewer system including residential sewer cleanout, utility sink or toilet, etc. and precautions must be taken to prevent any heavy debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog sink or toilet. Wash water may also be taken off site for proper disposal at your home or business.

If you would like further information about water quality pollution prevention, please contact the Public Works Department at (949) 635-1800 or visit our website at www.cityofrsm.org. Thank you for your effort in helping to improve the quality of our environment.