

IC16. POOL AND FOUNTAIN CLEANING

Pollution Prevention

Consider pollution prevention measures at all times for improving pollution control. Implementation of pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

1. Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning, consistent adequate chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation systems.
2. Manage pH and water hardness to minimize corrosion of copper pipes.
3. Discharge pool and fountain water properly.
4. Properly clean and/or dispose of filters.
5. Train employees on these BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most industries:

- Affirmative Procurement - Use alternative, safer, or recycled products.
- Redirect storm water flows away from areas of concern.
- Reduce use of water or use dry methods.
- Reduce storm water flow across facility site.
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows.
- Move or cover potential pollution from storm water contact.
- Provide on-going employee training in pollution prevention.

Best Management Practices

1. **Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning, consistent adequate chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation systems.**
 - Do not use copper-based algaecides.
 - Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives, such as sodium bromide.
2. **Manage pH and water hardness to minimize corrosion of copper pipes.**
3. **Discharge pool and fountain water properly.** Consider hiring a professional pool-draining service to collect all pool water for off-site disposal. If this is not feasible, adhere to the following:
 - When draining pools or fountains never discharge water to a street or storm drain, discharge to the sanitary sewer if permitted to do so.
 - If draining a pool to the sanitary sewer, prevent backflow by maintaining an “air gap” between the discharge line and the sewer line (do not seal the connection between the hose and sewer line). Be sure to call the local sewer authority for guidance on flow rate restrictions, backflow prevention, and handling special cleaning waste (such as acid wash). Keep discharge flows to the low levels. Higher flow rates may be prohibited by local ordinance.
 - If water is dechlorinated with a neutralizing chemical or by allowing chlorine to dissipate for a few days (do not use the facility during this time), the water may be recycled/reused by draining it gradually onto a landscaped area. Water must be tested prior to discharge to ensure that chlorine is not present.
 - Provide drip pans or buckets beneath drain pipe connections to catch leaks. This will be especially pertinent if pool or spa water that has not been dechlorinated is pumped through piping to a discharge location.
4. **Properly clean and/or dispose of filters.**
 - Never clean a filter in the street or near a storm drain.

- Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area, and work filter residue into soil.
- Backwash diatomaceous earth filters onto dirt. Dispose of spent diatomaceous earth in the garbage. Diatomaceous earth cannot be discharged to surface waters, storm drainage systems, septic systems, or on the ground.
- If there is not a suitable dirt area, discharge filter backwash or rinsewater to the sanitary sewer if permitted to do so by the local sewerage agency.

5. Training

1. **Train employees on these BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.**
2. **Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup.**
 - Establish training that provides employees with the proper tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up a spill.
 - Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
 - BMP IC17 discusses Spill Prevention and Control in detail.
3. **Train maintenance personnel on the proper techniques for testing chlorine levels and applying neutralizing chemicals.**
4. **Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.**
5. **Use a training log or similar method to document training.**

References

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Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities. Prepared by City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. July 1998 (Revised February 2002 by the California Coastal Commission).

Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. Maintenance Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry. Brochures: Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool; Roadwork and Paving; and Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application. June 2001.