



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Pool and Spa Water Discharge

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contains high levels of chlorine or other disinfectant chemicals. Discharging chlorinated pool or spa water into stormwater systems or waterways is harmful to fish and other aquatic life, and can have detrimental impacts on the wastewater system if not properly managed and treated. This document details the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the impact of chlorinated water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs.

- First, contact the local stormwater agency to determine if discharge is allowed and to confirm requirements. Discharging to stormwater may be allowed under limited circumstances.
- If stormwater discharge is prohibited, follow the procedure below to obtain approval to discharge to the wastewater system.

1) Notify the Industrial Pretreatment Program. You must receive written approval prior to discharge.

Email: pretreatment@crwwd.com; Office: 360-719-1694

2) The pool water must meet the following conditions prior to discharge approval:

- **No detectable chlorine.** At least two weeks prior to planned disposal, shut off any chlorination system or addition of any chemicals, to allow the residual chlorine to dissipate. Measure the chlorine level with a test kit and ensure that there is no detectable level at time of discharge.
- **pH.** Test the pH after chlorine dissipation and before discharge. The pH must remain between 6 and 9 standard units (SU) during discharge.
- **Flow control.** Pool water must be controlled and monitored during the duration of the discharge event. Flow control requirements will be provided with discharge approval.
- **Other conditions.** Additional requirements may be needed to protect the wastewater system and will be specified in the written approval, as applicable.