



REGULATORY MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING GUIDELINES

CITY OF ALAMEDA

For Pools, Spas/Hot Tubs and Fountains -

Keeping Pool, Spa and Fountain Water Out of San Francisco Bay

Residents, homeowners and contractors planning to install and/or maintain a pool, spa/hot tub (spa) or fountain should be aware of simple, important things they can do to protect the water quality of San Francisco Bay. Contact the City Permit Office at (510) 747-6800, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, to plan your project correctly.

DID YOU KNOW?



- Storm drains flow directly to San Francisco Bay without any treatment.
- Draining a pool, spa or fountain to the street, gutter or storm drain IS ILLEGAL AND can pollute the Bay with copper, chlorine, sediments, and/or other contaminants.
- It is prohibited to discharge pool, spa or fountain water that contains residual chlorine, copper algaecide, filter backwash, cleaning agents or other pollutants to the street, gutter, storm drains or directly to San Francisco Bay.
- It is prohibited to discharge pool, spa or fountain water that contains copper algaecide or filter backwash to the sanitary sewer without pre-approval from East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD).
- Chlorine is an effective disinfectant in your pool or spa but is a threat to aquatic life when discharged to watercourses or the Bay.
- Copper is sometimes used as an algaecide in pools, spas, and fountains, and copper pipes are commonly used in pool plumbing. Copper is also a pollutant that threatens aquatic life in San Francisco Bay.

MAINTAINING YOUR POOL, SPA OR FOUNTAIN

- A properly maintained pool, spa, or fountain will reduce the need for draining.
- Minimize algae buildup to prevent the need for toxic algaecides.
- Clean regularly, maintain proper chlorine levels, and maintain water filtration and circulation.
- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize copper pipe corrosion that can stain your pool and end up in the Bay.
- Ask your pool maintenance service for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algaecides.

CLEANING YOUR POOL, SPA OR FOUNTAIN

- Never clean a filter in the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt or landscaped area and tool/mix filter residue into the soil.
- Keep filter backwash discharges out of the street, gutter and storm drain. Discharge backwash from sand and diatomaceous earth filters onto an appropriately-sized landscape area. Dispose of spent filter materials in the trash.



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DRAINING YOUR POOL, SPA OR FOUNTAIN

- Discharge water to an adequate landscape area that can accommodate the discharge volume. See Tips for Determining if you have an Appropriate Landscape Area for Discharging Pool/Spa Wastewater.
- Or, with EBMUD approval, you can discharge your drain water to the sanitary sewer system via a sewer cleanout. For further information on seeking discharge pre-approval from EBMUD, contact EBMUD Environmental Services @ (510) 287-1651. If you are not sure of the location of your sanitary sewer clean-out, See Tips for Finding Your Clean-out.
- As a last resort, and IF your discharge water DOES NOT contain any residual chlorine, copper algaecide, filter backwash, cleaning agents or other pollutants, you may discharge to the street, gutter or storm drain IF you implement effective discharge practices to prevent any erosive scouring, discharge of any leaves or debris to a storm drain or any public safety nuisances such as, but not limited to, obstructions, tripping hazards, ponded water or slickened surfaces.

TIPS FOR DETERMINING IF YOU HAVE AN APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPE AREA FOR DISCHARGING POOL/SPA WASTEWATER

- Discharge only to your own private property. Please do not discharge to public spaces, a parking strip or someone else's property.
- The area should be able to soak up ALL the water without any runoff going to a paved surface or someone else's property.
- The drained water should not result in any erosive scouring.
- There should not be any standing water or waterlogged soils after 24 hours.

TIPS FOR FINDING YOUR CLEAN-OUT

- Look for a small circular cap on a pipe, with a raised square on it, sticking out of your house or out of the ground. These caps often cover clean-outs.
- Look on your property for a small concrete or metal cover marked "sewer" or "C.O." or "S". Clean-outs are often located under them.
- If your kitchen or bathroom is on an exterior wall of your house, look outside along that wall for a clean-out.
- Stand on the sidewalk looking toward your house. Line up the main water sources in your house: bathrooms, kitchen, washers, etc. The clean-out is often located on that line, in front of or behind your house.
- If you still can't find your clean-out, contact your local plumber.

For further information contact:

City of Alameda Clean Water Program at (510) 747-7930;
<http://www.cityofalamedaca.gov/Go-Green/Clean-Water>
Alameda County Clean Water Program at www.cleanwaterprogram.org
EBMUD Environmental Services Division, (510) 287-1651

