



## IC16. POOL AND FOUNTAIN CLEANING

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)

A BMP is a technique, measure, or structural control that is used for a given set of conditions to improve the quality of the stormwater runoff in a cost-effective manner.<sup>1</sup> The minimum required BMPs for this activity are outlined in the box to the right. Implementation of pollution prevention/good housekeeping measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures. Proper employee training is key to the success of BMP implementation.

The BMPs outlined in this fact sheet target the following pollutants:

TARGETED CONSTITUENTS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sediment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrients
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floatable Materials
Metals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bacteria
Oil and Grease
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organics and Toxicants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticides
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oxygen Demanding

### MINIMUM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

- Prevent algae problems with regular cleaning, consistent adequate chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation systems.
- Discharge pool and fountain water properly.
- Stencil storm drains.

#### Training

- Train employees on these BMPs, stormwater discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.
- Provide ongoing employee training in pollution prevention.

Provided below are specific procedures associated with each of the minimum BMPs along with procedures for additional BMPs that should be considered if this activity takes place at a facility located near a sensitive waterbody. In order to meet the requirements for medium- and high-priority facilities, the owners/operators must select, install, and maintain appropriate BMPs on site. Since the selection of the appropriate BMPs is a site-specific process, the types and numbers of additional BMPs will vary for each facility.

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.

<sup>1</sup> EPA Preliminary Data Summary of Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices

- 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 sewer agency.

**TRAINING**

- 1. Train employees on these BMPs, stormwater 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.**

**STENCIL STORM DRAINS**

Storm drain system signs act as highly visible source controls that are typically stenciled directly adjacent to storm drain inlets. Stencils should read *NO DUMPING DRAINS TO OCEAN*.

## REFERENCES

*California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook.* Industrial and Commercial. 2003.  
www.cabmphandbooks.com

*King County Stormwater Pollution Control Manual.* Best Management Practices for Businesses. King County Surface Water Management. July 1995. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/dss/spcm.htm>

*Los Angeles County Stormwater Quality.* Public Agency Activities Model Program.  
[http://ladpw.org/wmd/npdes/public\\_TC.cfm](http://ladpw.org/wmd/npdes/public_TC.cfm)

*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, and 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.

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