

## Doing the Job Right

- Try draining de-chlorinated pool water gradually onto a landscaped area, so that water stays on your property, does not flow onto your neighbor's property, and there is no runoff.
- Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals, because copper is harmful when discharged
- If you are a pool maintenance company, make sure employees are familiar with these BMPs and spill cleanup procedures.



We all play an important role in protecting our local waterways and the environment. Property owners with pools can be held responsible for ensuring pool maintenance is conducted properly. If you have any questions about draining your pool, please contact the City of Vista's Water Quality Hotline at 760.643.2804 or [waterquality@cityofvista.com](mailto:waterquality@cityofvista.com).

## City of Vista Stormwater Program

The City of Vista is committed to protecting and enhancing water quality in local waterways, all of which eventually flow to the Pacific Ocean. The City appreciates your cooperation in this effort and staff are available to assist you with any questions or concerns.

If businesses and residents help us to prevent urban runoff pollution, our local environment and community will benefit. For more information regarding the City's Stormwater and Water Quality Protection Program, please visit our website at: [cityofvista.com/stormwater](http://cityofvista.com/stormwater)

If you have questions about pollution prevention at your business or observe polluted runoff, please contact the City of Vista's Water Quality Hotline at:

 760.643.2804 (English and Spanish)

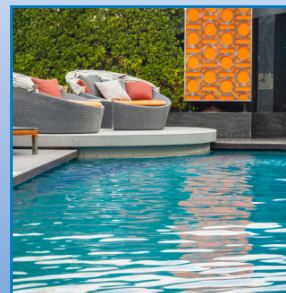
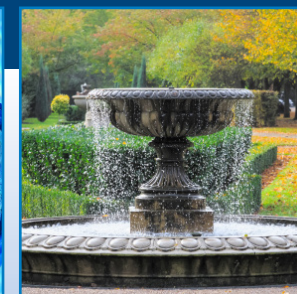
 [waterquality@cityofvista.com](mailto:waterquality@cityofvista.com)



This publication is available in an alternate format. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at 760. 639.6145.



## Best Management Practices for Swimming Pools, Fountains & Spas



We all play an important role in protecting our water, wildlife, and plants



## Did You Know ...

Although we enjoy fun times in the pool, the draining of this water can harm our local creeks if not done properly. Potential pollutants such as chlorine, algae, salt, and other chemicals can have a negative impact on aquatic wildlife and the environment. When swimming pools, spas, or fountain water are drained to the street gutter, this goes into the storm drain system and directly to our local creeks without being treated to remove pollutants.



## Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are activities that prevent pollutants from entering storm drains and impacting local creeks. This brochure is a reference for pollution prevention BMPs required by Vista Municipal Code (Chapter 13.18, Urban Runoff Management and Discharge Control Program), which *prohibits all pollutants from entering the storm drain system.*

## Draining Your Pool or Spa

- When feasible, slowly discharge pool water to landscaping or other areas that will allow the water to be absorbed.
- Consider draining the water into the sanitary sewer system through a legal sewer connection or clean-out. For more information please contact the City of Vista's Water Quality Hotline at 760-643-2804 or [waterquality@cityofvista.com](mailto:waterquality@cityofvista.com).
- You may discharge pool or spa water to a storm drain system **ONLY** if the water:
  - Has no chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, acid, saline (salt), or other chemicals;
  - pH level is between "7"- "8";
  - Has no algae or harmful bacteria or green in color;
  - Has no dirt, debris, or vegetation;
  - Is discharged slowly to not create sediment erosion or traffic hazards.

## How Do I Get Rid of Chlorine?

The good news is, chlorine naturally dissipates over time. Test chlorine levels in the pool over a period of 3 to 5 days, until the chlorine has dissipated. Drain the water before algae starts to grow.

## Cleaning Pool Filters

- Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area or over the lawn.
- Collect filter waste. Dispose of it in the trash.
- Diatomaceous earth from filters cannot be discharged into the street or storm drain system. Let it dry and dispose as trash.

## Acid Washing & Pool Cleaning

- Wash water from acid cleaning must not be discharged to the storm drain system.
- Acid cleaning wash water may be discharged into the sanitary sewer, through a legal sewer connection, after the pH has been adjusted to no lower than "6" and no higher than "11".

## Pool Construction & Repair

- Schedule pool construction work during the dry season (April 1 through September 30) to avoid rainwater accumulation and minimize tracking of mud from the yard onto the street.
- Pump water into a portable containment device and haul it to an approved disposal area or use a vegetated area of the site for water infiltration.
- Contain all materials such as concrete, mortar, and dirt and dispose of properly.