

In Napa County,  
all storm drains (the drains in streets)  
flow directly to creeks or  
other waterways with  
**no** treatment!



In response to federal  
and state regulations and  
requirements, the municipalities  
in Napa County have joined to form the:

### Napa County Stormwater Management Program (NCSWMP)

In addition to reviewing their own  
practices that may harm water quality,  
the NCSWMP agencies have launched a  
public education campaign and  
inspection program to reduce the  
amount of pollutants discharged from  
residential and commercial sources.

## Doing Your Part

Your swimming pool,  
spa, or fountain  
maintenance practices  
can make a significant  
difference in the water  
quality of our creeks,  
the Napa River, and  
the San Francisco Bay.

Many  
chemicals  
used in pool  
maintenance  
(e.g. chlorine,  
bromine,  
copper, silver)  
are extremely  
toxic to aquatic  
life.

For example, the State Department of Fish  
and Game has determined that levels of  
chlorine in water higher than 0.01 parts per  
million (ppm) are dangerous to the  
environment. The typical chlorine level  
maintained in a pool is 2-4 ppm; that is 200-  
400 times the harmful level.

By doing a few simple things you can protect  
the fish and critters that live in our creeks  
**and** comply with Local, State, and Federal  
regulations.

Remember that you are also responsible for  
the actions of your contractors. Be sure you  
know how your contractor will be disposing  
of the pool, spa, or fountain water and the  
filter cleaning rinsewater and backwash.

## Resources

**Napa County Stormwater  
Management Program**  
(707) 253-4823  
[www.napastormwater.org](http://www.napastormwater.org)

### Sanitation Agencies

Napa Sanitation District	(707) 258-6000
City of American Canyon	(707) 647-4550
Town of Yountville	(707) 944-2988
City of St. Helena	(707) 967-2658
City of Calistoga	(707) 942-2828

### Local Stormwater Jurisdictions (Encroachment Permits)

American Canyon	(707) 647-4550
Napa	(707) 257-9520
Yountville	(707) 944-8851
St. Helena	(707) 968-2658
Calistoga	(707) 942-2828
Napa County	(707) 253-4351

### Local Stormwater Pollution Reporting Hotlines

American Canyon	(707) 647-4550
Napa	(707) 257-9600
Yountville	(707) 944-8851
St. Helena	(707) 967-2658 (967-2850 after hrs)
Calistoga	(707) 942-2828
Napa County	(707) 299-1799

### Napa-Vallejo Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

**Location:** 889A Devlin Road, American Canyon  
**Hours:** Every Friday and Saturday from 9AM to 4PM  
**Maximum quantity:** 15 gallons or 125 lbs per trip  
**Households:** No appointment required/no charge  
**Businesses:** Appointment only/charge for service.  
Call 1-800-984-9661.

## Pollution Prevention for Swimming Pool, Spa, and Fountain Maintenance

### Best Management Practices for Napa County residents



# Best Management Practices

Below are maintenance practices approved by the NCSWMP to avoid or minimize pollutants discharged to waterways. By following them you can help protect water quality in our streams and comply with Local, State, and Federal regulations.

**Note:** There are additional requirements for *commercial* swimming pool facilities under the State's Health and Safety Code. Contact the Napa County Department of Management (707-253-4471) if you have questions about commercial swimming pool facilities.

## Disposing of Swimming Pool, Spa, or Fountain Water

- The preferred method is to discharge pool, spa, or fountain water onto the land surface provided the water is dechlorinated/debrominated, the pH is between 6.5 and 8.5, **and** the land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other stormwater conveyance.
- If landscaping is not a viable option, the next best choice is to discharge pool, spa, or fountain water to the sanitary system. Contact your local sanitary sewer agency to make sure the discharge will not create a problem in the sewer system or wastewater treatment plant downstream of your property.
- All local agencies in Napa County have adopted laws that allow swimming pool, spa, and fountain water to be discharged to storm drains **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:
  - ✓ Other disposal methods (e.g. sanitary sewer, landscaping) are not possible.
  - ✓ The pool, spa, or fountain water is completely dechlorinated/debrominated.
  - ✓ Concentrations of copper and silver are not harmful to fish or other aquatic life.
  - ✓ The pH is between 6.5 and 8.5.
  - ✓ The water is free of any unusual coloration, dirt, suds, or algae.
  - ✓ There is no discharge of filter media.
  - ✓ There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.
  - ✓ The water is at ambient temperature. (Heated water should be allowed to cool.)

**Note:** All local jurisdictions in Napa County require an encroachment permit before draining pool, spa, or fountain water to a public right of way (e.g. street, road, drainage easement). Lab analysis of the water may be required before encroachment permits are issued. Contact the local stormwater jurisdiction for more information.

## Disposing of Filter Rinsewater and Backwash

- It is **illegal** to discharge filter rinsewater and backwash to streets, storm drains or creeks.
- Rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area and spade the filter residue into the soil.
- Backwash sand and diatomaceous earth filters onto a dirt or rock area.
- Keep backwash discharges out of the street and storm drain. Temporary wash areas must be adequate to contain all washwaters. The temporary wash area is inadequate if washwater reaches creeks, gutters, or storm drains.
- If you do not have a suitable dirt area, contact your wastewater treatment authority listed on the back of this brochure for instructions on discharging to the sanitary sewer. Pretreatment may be required to remove the diatomaceous earth from the backwash water and prevent blockages to your sewer line.

## General Maintenance Tips

- Clean your pool, fountain, or spa regularly, maintain proper chlorine levels, water filtration and circulation. If you do so, you will not have to drain your pool so often.
- Manage pH and water hardness to reduce copper pipe corrosion that can stain your pool and end up in our creeks.
- Before using copper algacides, try less toxic algacides. Only use copper if others really do not help. Ask your pool maintenance service or store for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algacides.
- Make sure your pool maintenance service follows all discharge requirements.
- Dispose of unwanted pool chemicals properly. Many are hazardous wastes when discarded. Household hazardous wastes may be legally disposed of at the Napa-Vallejo Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. See the "Resources" section for more details.
- Commercial operations, including maintenance companies, may dispose of hazardous pool chemicals for a fee through the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Program. For an appointment, call the Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 1-800-984-9661. For more information, call the Napa County Environmental Management Department at 253-4471.

