Storing and Handling Chemicals

- Use only the amount indicated on product labels.
- Store chlorine and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Chlorine kits, available at retail swimming pool equipment and supply stores, should be used to monitor the water content and pH levels.
- Chlorine should never be allowed to flow into the gutter or the storm drain system.

Spill Response Agencies

- To report a spill or release of hazardous material that actively threatens people or property call:
  City of Long Beach - Fire Department
  Dial 911
- To report a spill or release of motor oil, paint, solvents, or fuel in immediate danger of entering storm drain system call:
  City of Long Beach - Fire Department
  Dial 911
- If not in immediate danger of entering storm drain system call:
  City of Long Beach - Fire Department
  (562) 436-8211
- To report non-hazardous spills in sewer system call:
  City of Long Beach - Water Department
  (562) 570-2390

Storm Drains & Public Streets

- To report clogged catch basins & drains call:
  City of Long Beach - Water Department
  (562) 570-2390
- To report sediment of mud in public street or alley call:
  City of Long Beach - Department of Public Works
  (562) 570-2700
- To report trash, leaves, branches, & grass clippings in the public street or alley call:
  City of Long Beach - Department of Public Works
  (562) 570-2876

Unhealthful Discharges or Conditions

- To report discharges of food waste.
- To report discharges of sewage, greywater, dirty water, RV waste, raw sewage, or pool & pond water.
- To report discharges of stagnant pool or pond water.
- To report discharges from apartment house dumpsters call:
  City of Long Beach
  Department of Health & Human Services
  Bureau of Environmental Health
  (562) 570-4129

Illicit Discharges from Private Property

- To report discharges from dumpsters on private property.
- To report discharges from washing of roofs of single family dwellings.
- To report trash & debris on privately owned property.
- To report illegal mobile car wash businesses.
- To report illegal auto repair business on private property.
- To report Auto repair on the public street.
- To report discharges from construction sites call:
  City of Long Beach
  Department of Planning & Building
  (562) 570-6651

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:
- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care
- Food Service Industry
- Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application
- General Construction & Site Supervision
- Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities
- Horse Owners & Equine Industry
- Home Repair & Remodeling
- Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control
- Painting
- Roadwork & Paving

For additional brochures call:
- City of Long Beach
  Department of Planning & Building
  (562) 570-6651

For more information about storm drain protection call:
- City of Long Beach
  Department of Public Works
  Bureau of Engineering
  Stormwater Management Division
  (562) 570-6383

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Resources

For additional information on the disposal or discharge of pool and fountain water, telephone the City of Long Beach's Integrated Resources Bureau (IRB) at (562) 570-2876.
Pool Discharge Problems

Wastewater from residential swimming pools, jacuzzis, fish ponds and fountains contain chemicals used for sanitizing or cleansing purposes. These toxic chemicals (such as chlorine or copper-based algaecides) pose a hazard to aquatic and human life if the wastewater is allowed to flow into the ocean via the storm drains.

Additives that change water color, such as aqua-blue dyes used in fountains, negatively impact marine ecosystems by changing water temperature, filtering out sunlight and preventing algae growth.

Draining excess water into the street or gutter also increases the flow of urban runoff which picks up motor oil and other toxics from the street surface, carrying them into the storm drains and the ocean.

Discharge Regulations

- Water from swimming pools, spas, and fountains should never be discharged into a street or storm drain.
- Only rainwater is permitted to enter the storm drain system according to local, state, and federal regulations. Los Angeles Municipal Code 62.80 prohibits the discharging of pool water into the streets.

Discharge Options

- Use excess water to irrigate landscaping. Before gradually draining the water onto landscaped areas, you can dechlorinate the water by letting it sit for up to two weeks. If you used a copper-based algaecide, let the water sit up to a month, since copper can be toxic to plant life.

- After dechlorinating the water, or if you do not use copper-based algaecides, you may be able to get a permit to discharge to the sanitary sewer by running a hose to a utility sink or sewer pipe cleanout junction. Contact the local sewage treatment authority.

Cleaning Filters

- The City of Long Beach prohibits backwashing into the sewer system from diatomaceous earth filters (DE filters). A separation tank should be used before discharging waste water into the sewer system. The algae and larger particles collected in the separation tank are solid waste and should be disposed of as trash.

Solutions

Best Management Practices such as handling, storing, and disposing of water and materials properly can prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains.

Water from recreational swimming pools, jacuzzis, fish ponds and fountains should only be drained, with a permit, into the sanitary sewer.

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure a cleaner ocean and city.

Dyes and Algaecides

- Additives that change water color, such as aqua-blue dyes used in fountains, alter water temperature, filter out sunlight and prevent algae growth. Water containing dyes should be discharged to the sanitary sewer system for filtration.

- Do not use copper-based algaecides unless absolutely necessary. Control algae with chlorine, organic polymers or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals. Copper is a powerful herbicide. Sewage treatment technology cannot remove all of the metals that enter the treatment plant.