

A Clean Environment is Important to all of us!

In the City of Vista, storm drains flow directly into local creeks, lagoons and the ocean without treatment. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for our natural environment and for people who live near streams or wetlands.

Storm water pollution comes from a variety of sources including oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; pesticide runoff from landscaping; and from materials such as concrete, mortar and soil from construction activities.

The City of Vista is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our precious waterways.



Look on the Internet

- Project Clean Water: projectcleanwater.org
- Think Blue San Diego Region: thinkbluesdregion.org
- City of Vista: cityofvista.com

Who to Contact

Report illegal dumping:

- City of Vista Stormwater Hotline
(760) 726-1340 x1686
- City of Vista Public Works
(760) 639-6176
- County Stormwater Hotline
(888) 846-0800

Report sewer spills:

- City of Vista Public Works
(760) 639-6176

Waste Disposal:

- City of Vista Household Hazardous Waste Facility
(800) 714-1195
1165 E. Taylor Street
Vista, CA 92084

Open Saturdays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Proof of residency required
- EDCO Waste & Recycling
(760) 727-1600
- Encina Wastewater Authority
(760) 438-3941



200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084
Water Quality Protection Program
waterquality@cityofvista.com | 760.639.6111
Hotline: 760.726.1340 ext. 1686

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



Water Quality Protection Program
cityofvista.com



It's All Just Water, Isn't It?

Although we enjoy the fun and relaxing times in them, the water used in swimming pools and spas can cause problems for our creeks, lagoons and the ocean if not disposed of properly. When you drain your swimming pool, fountain or spa to the street, the high concentrations of chlorine and other chemicals found in the water flows directly to our storm drains.

Did you know that these storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Improperly disposing of swimming pool and spa water into storm drains may be harmful to the environment.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like chlorine and sediment from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean. Using BMPs adds up to a pollution solution!



How Do I Get Rid of Chlorine?

Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm drain if it has been properly dechlorinated and does not contain other chemicals. The good news is chlorine naturally dissipates over time. Monitor and test for chlorine levels in the pool over a period of 3 to 5 days. Drain the water before algae starts to grow.

Consider hiring a professional pool service company to clean your pool, fountain or spa and make sure they dispose of the water and solids properly. For more information about discharging wastewater to the sanitary sewer please contact Encina Wastewater Authority at (760) 438-3941.



Before you discharge your swimming pool or spa water to the storm drain, the water:

- Must not contain chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, acid, or any other chemicals.
- Must not carry debris or vegetation.
- Must have an acceptable pH of 7-8.
- Must not contain algae or harmful bacteria (no "green" present).
- Flow must be controlled so that it does not cause erosion problems.



Pool Filters

Clean filters over a lawn or other landscaped area where the discharge can be absorbed. Collect materials on filter cloth and dispose into the trash. Diatomaceous earth cannot be discharged into the street or storm drain systems. Dry it out as much as possible, bag it in plastic and dispose into the trash.

Acid Washing

Acid cleaning wash water is NOT allowed into the storm drains. Make sure acid washing is done in a proper and safe manner that is not harmful to people or the environment. It may be discharged into the sanitary sewer through a legal sewer connection after the pH has been adjusted to no lower than 5.5 and no higher than 11.

Do the Job Right!

Use the water for irrigation. Try draining dechlorinated pool water gradually onto a landscaped area. Water discharged to landscape must not cross property lines and must not produce runoff.

Do not use copper-based algaecides. Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals. Copper is harmful to the aquatic environment.

During pool construction, contain all materials and dispose of properly. Materials such as cement, Gunite, mortar, and sediment must not be discharged into the storm drains.