Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.

Storm drains collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Typically they are the drains found in streets and in parking lots. **Pollutants are not removed** from storm-water before it is discharged into streams and rivers. Everything that goes down storm drains ultimately flows to the Sacramento River, Deepwater Ship Channel or the Yolo By-Pass and eventually to the ocean.

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing including toilets, showers, sinks, washing machines and floor drains. Wastewater flows to community sewer systems or individual septic systems for treatment. For more information call Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District at (916) 876-6064.

Need info about solid waste disposal or hazardous waste?

Refuse and Recycling

(916) 617-4590 or

www.cityofwestsacramento.org

City of West Sacramento, Environmental Services
1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95615
(916) 617-4850 www.cityofwestsacramento.org

CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO

You are the solution… to eliminating storm water pollution

City of West Sacramento

Swimming Pool Maintenance Guide to Storm Water Pollution Prevention

What You Can Do To Help Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Concrete

Before starting a job, determine the proper disposal methods for liquid and solid materials (concrete, grout, stucco, mortar).

- Don't dispose of liquid waste in the trash.
- Haul large amounts of solid waste to the landfill.
- Put small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, mortar and stucco in the trash.
- Wash out equipment in a heavy plastic lined contained area or into a leak-proof container so that wash water can evaporate.
- Keep sediment out of the storm drain by placing barriers to capture runoff from exposed aggregate, saw cutting, coring or mortaring.
- Set up a wash area for equipment. Let water evaporate in a leak-proof area, then throw away the dried sediment.
- Sweep sediment out of gutters and off of surrounding concrete and dispose of it in the trash.
- Make sure contractors follow correct disposal procedures.

Storm Water Best Management Practices for Pool & Spa Construction and Maintenance

What you should know...

Water flowing over streets and other surfaces picks up sediment and pollutants and carries them into the storm drainage system. Storm drains are flood control systems designed to carry rainwater from streets and properties in order to prevent flooding after a heavy rain. Unlike sanitary sewers, which pipe wastewater from inside a home or business to a wastewater treatment plant where harmful pollutants are removed, the storm drain system allows water to flow untreated directly into local waterways or retention basins. Without good storm water management, pollutants can enter our waterways where they can have a harmful impact on water quality and the environment.

Discharges that can introduce pollutants into our waterways through storm water runoff include soaps, automotive fluids, litter, sediment, pesticides, pool chemicals, and many other materials washed off roadways, sidewalks, buildings, vehicles and other equipment.

It is easier and cheaper to prevent storm water pollution than to clean it up. The County of Yolo has adopted a Storm Water Management Program that includes public outreach and education of its residents and local businesses, so that everyone can contribute to keeping ALL of our water free of pollution. You can do your part by following Best Management Practices for preventing storm water pollution that have been developed for your industry. Some of these are outlined here.

Best Management Practices: Pool & Spa Construction

- Manage sediment from the excavation to minimize the potential for erosion during a rain storm
- Avoid excavation during wet weather.
- Cover excavated soil with a tarp to prevent it from being carried into streets and gutters with runoff and from being tracked into the street on vehicle tires.
- If you do not need all the excavated soil, remove it from the site to prevent runoff into the storm system.
- Design drainage so that pool splash water infiltrates into the soil and does not drain toward the house or street.
- Repair damage to grass and other landscaping to prevent soil erosion in those areas.
- Cement, gunite, and mortar from construction must be disposed of properly. Do not discharge these materials or associated water to storm drains.

Filter Maintenance:

- When replacing the filter or replacing sand or diatomaceous earth, follow requirements for disposal of the used material.
- Do not discharge backwash into the street or storm drain. It should go into the sanitary sewer.
- Never clean or rinse a filter into the street, gutter or storm inlet
- Rinse cartridge filters into a container and allow the waste to settle out. Dispose of residue by bagging and placing in the trash after it dries out.

Although it may seem that the water or chemicals from one pool cannot make a significant impact on water quality, these are important practices to follow. The number one cause of water pollution is the cumulative effect of urban runoff from thousands of homes, cars, lawns, pools, automobile shops, farms and small businesses that discharge materials to our waterways.

Do the right thing and protect your business as well the water that your customers and your families drink every day.