

## **What is Diatomaceous Earth (DE)?**

A common stormwater complaint is disposal of backwash (to clean out by reversing the flow of fluid) to the gutter and street. The backwash leaves a white residue of diatomaceous earth (DE) and other heavy concentrations of chlorine, copper and other chemicals in the gutter and street. **This is not a legal method to dispose of backwash.** Use a cellulose-based substitute for DE. If possible, backwash liquid should be discharged to the sanitary sewer, after particulates have been removed.

### **Enforcement**

The City promptly responds to all complaints of illegal discharges to the storm drain system.

**If you see anyone discharging anything directly or indirectly into the street, please call City Hall immediately at (562) 866-9771 as City staff needs to witness the violation in progress.**

Pool maintenance service providers and property owners may be held responsible for violations and costs associated with clean up, investigations and violations, fines or citations from the City, County, State and Federal regulatory agencies as well as any third party enforcement actions.

## **A Word About Business Licenses**

Every company or person doing business or based in Lakewood is required to have a business license. This includes pool & spa maintenance services that may be based in another city but frequently work in the City of Lakewood. In addition to a license, all mobile services that wash (vehicles, carpets, roofs, animals, etc..) must complete a Public Works questionnaire and may be required to provide a demonstration prior to obtaining a business license. For more information on to obtain a business license contact City of Lakewood Administrative Services at (562) 866-9771 ext. 2600.



### **City of Lakewood**

For more information or assistance, please call the City of Lakewood's Public Works Department (562) 866-9771 extension 2500.

## **City of Lakewood**

**Best Management Practices**

**Pools & Spas**



**Cleaning and Draining**

## How Does Maintenance Of Pools Or Spas Pollute Stormwater?

Although we enjoy the fun and relaxation of swimming pools and spas, the water used from them can cause problems for our ocean.

When you drain your saltwater or chlorinated swimming pool or spa to the street, the high concentrations of chlorine, salt, and other chemicals found in the water flows directly to our storm drains and to the ocean. Storm



**Only Rain in the Storm Drain!**

drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system and treatment plants.

Routine pool and spa maintenance activities generate a variety of chemicals and wastes. Saltwater or chlorinated pool water, backwash residues, algaecides, and acid washes are a few examples.

When pool and spa water gets drained into the gutters, streets and storm drains this causes

serious harm to aquatic life and the environment– and is **PROHIBITED** by law.

Drainage of swimming pool or spa water into any public street, roads, alleys, is a violation of Lakewood Municipal Code 4322.

**Remember...The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door!**



## What are Best Management Practices for Saltwater or Chlorinated Pools & Spas?

Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that help prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep our storm drains clean.

### Maintaining Pools & Spas

- Prevent algae growth with routine cleaning, maintaining adequate chlorine levels and maintenance of pump and filter systems.
- Do not use copper-based algaecide pool chemicals.
- Prevent mosquito breeding, by not allowing pool/spa water to stagnate.

### Draining Pools & Spas

Drain pool water to the sanitary sewer whenever possible. Pool water may only be drained to the storm drain **only if all the conditions are met:**

- The water contains less than 1 part per million chlorine **and** does not contain any other pollutant;
- The pH is between 6.5 and 8.5;
- Test and monitor chemical levels using a pool test kit;
- The water is free of any unusual coloration;
- There is no discharge of filter media;
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes, chlorine, bacteria, algae or other chemicals;
- De-chlorinated pool water may be used to irrigate vegetation on the owner's property;
- The discharge will not cause erosion;
- The discharge will not cause the transport of other pollutants such as: motor oil; pet waste; trash and other debris into the storm drain

system;

- Sweep and remove debris from the curb and gutter between your property and the nearest downstream storm drain to prevent drained water from carrying pollutants to the storm drain system and ultimately the ocean.
- Opening and using a City manhole to dispose of any type of pool or other wastewater is prohibited.

### Filter Cleaning

- Never clean or rinse a filter into the gutter, street, or storm drain.
- Rinse cartridge or sand filters into a container or retention basin to settle out waste. Bag and dispose of residue to the trash.
- Filter rinse water may be diverted to dirt or landscaped areas on your property.