

SPILL RESPONSE / HAZARDOUS DISCHARGES

City of Torrance Fire Department
Hazardous Materials Division
Dispatch (310) 781-7042

TO CONNECT TO THE STORM DRAIN

It is illegal to connect to the storm drain without a permit. To obtain a storm drain connection permit, contact the City of Torrance Community Development Department at (310) 618-5898
Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm

TO CONNECT TO THE COUNTY SEWER

Los Angeles County Sanitation District
(562) 699-7411 Ext. 2727

RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE INFORMATION

Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works,
Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652) or log onto
www.888CleanLA.com

For more information on recycling and waste management, visit: www.RecycleTorrance.org

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping of trash, paint products, motor oil and other chemicals into storm drains is against the law!

To report illegal discharges or dumping to the storm drain system anywhere in Los Angeles County at any time, call:
1-888-CleanLA (1-888-253-2652)

TO REPORT A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN OR INLET

City of Torrance
Public Works Department
Mon-Thurs 7am-5pm
(310) 781-6900

To report a clogged storm drain inlet or catch basin anywhere in Los Angeles County at anytime, call:
Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
1-800-675-HELP or (626) 458-4357

This brochure is one of a series of brochures describing storm drain protection measures.

Other brochures include:

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE & CAR CARE

FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY

FRESH CONCRETE & MORTAR APPLICATION

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

HEAVY EQUIPMENT & EARTHMOVING
ACTIVITIES

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING

LANDSCAPING GARDENING & PEST
CONTROL

PAINTING

ROADWORK & PAVING

For more information about storm drain protection or additional brochures, call the



CITY OF TORRANCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
(310) 618-5990

www.888CleanLA.com

*The City of Torrance gratefully acknowledges the
City of Los Angeles for brochure concept and design.*



Printed on recycled paper.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL, SPA, or FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Safe Environment Practices and
Procedures for:

Homeowners
Do-It-Yourselfers
General Contractors
Home Builders

Stormwater Pollution – *It's Up to Us*

The City of Torrance has two drainage systems - the sewers and the storm drains. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

During storms in urban areas, rainwater may mix with pollutants in industrial and household runoff, creating storm water pollution.

Most runoff from the streets of Torrance discharges directly to the Pacific Ocean via the storm drain system.

All of us need to make sure that only clean storm drain water runoff is allowed to enter these inlets.

This brochure is to educate you of the correct way to

- Dispose of pool, spa, or fountain water
- Filter cleaning or backwash
- Acid washing
- Algae control

Remember that the owner is also liable for the practices of their contractors. Be sure you know how your contractor will be disposing of the pool, spa, or fountain water and filter cleaning washwater and backwash.

UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGES ARE PROHIBITED!

PROBLEMS

Pool and spa maintenance requires strong chemicals that if allowed to enter surface waters and storm drains contributes to stormwater pollution, which contaminates our oceans, causes harm to marine life, damage to aquatic ecosystems, and causes beach closures — there is no treatment of water discharged through the storm drain system, it flows straight into our ocean.

Water from swimming pools and spas can contain high levels of chlorine, bromine, and copper. It is very corrosive due to low pH levels and may contain organic matter.



ILLICIT DISCHARGES TO STORM DRAINS ARE PROHIBITED. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE

Extra planning is required to guard against stormwater and ocean pollution.

SOLUTIONS

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering the ocean through the storm drain system.

Here are some simple steps to follow to prevent stormwater pollution

- Make sure all chemicals are dissipated before draining a pool, spa, or fountain
- Do not drain pools, spas, or fountains within 3 to 5 days of adding chemicals
- Never backwash a filter into the street or storm drain
- Cleanup chemical spills with absorbent, do not wash it down the drain
- Dispose of leftover chemicals and paints through a licensed hazardous waste disposal provider
- Pool, spa, or fountain water containing copper-based algaecides may not be discharged to the storm drain or sanitary sewer system
- Do not drain water into a septic system, it will upset the septic system and it is against building and health & safety codes
- Residual chlorine or bromine must be less than 0.1 mg/L and the water should not contain any detergents, wastes, algaecides or cyanuric acid in excess of 50 ppm, including salts from saltwater pools
- Do not discharge pool water until 48 hours after the end of a rainstorm

Disposal of Swimming Pool, Spa, or Fountain Water

The City requires that pool, spa, and fountain water shall be discharged into a dry well or sanitary sewer. If in the sanitary sewer, it must be done between the hours of 8:00PM and 6:00AM.


AT NO TIME SHOULD POOL, SPA, OR FOUNTAIN WATER BE DRAINED ONTO THE STREET AND ALLOWED TO RUN INTO THE STORM DRAIN.

POOL, SPA & FOUNTAIN CHEMICALS can be disposed of at any household hazardous waste roundup. Call the Torrance Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division 310-618-2973 for information.



Disposal of Filter Rinsewater and Backwash

Three types of filters commonly used are: diatomaceous earth (DE) filters, sand filters, and cartridge filters. All of these filters require periodic backwashing or rinsing and cleaning.

- Dispose of filter rinsewater and backwash into a landscaped area where it will soak into the ground, sanitary sewer connection, or to a drywell specifically constructed for that purpose
- It is **illegal** to discharge filter rinsewater and backwash to gutters or storm drains 
- FILTERING MEDIA such as diatomaceous earth media or sand should be dried and bagged and placed in the trash or flushed into the sanitary sewer system —diatomaceous earth is an irritant to the eyes and respiratory system, special care should be taken when handling it

Acid Washing

Acid washing must be done safely. If waste water from acid washing is to be discharged to the sanitary sewer, it must first be adjusted to a pH above 6.0 in order to avoid upset to the sanitary sewer system. Do not dispose of acid wash water in a septic system and must be disposed in a sanitary sewer or pumped and hauled away for legal disposal.

Algae Control

Avoid use of copper-based algaecides. Copper is toxic to fish even at low levels that are not harmful to people and it does not dissipate like chlorine does.

For systems with copper piping, the pH and hardness of the water should be managed in order to minimize corrosion of copper pipes—this will not only protect the piping but prevent dissolved copper from harming our aquatic ecosystems.



As most pool chemicals are toxic and may present a reaction hazard if mixed together; **DO NOT MIX** pool chemicals together, keep them separated and in their original containers.