

# Swimming Pools, Fountains, & Spas

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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## **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

*Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm sewer system if it has been properly de-chlorinated and does not contain other chemicals. The good news is that 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. For information about discharging to the sanitary sewer system please contact the Fargo Wastewater Treatment Plant at (701) 241-1469.*

- Cleanup spills as soon as they occur. Use dry methods such as rags or absorbent materials and dispose of properly.
- Mark the storm drains near your facility. Contact Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers about the storm drain marking program.

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

- Must not contain chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, acid, or any other chemicals.
- Cannot carry debris or vegetation.
- Should have an acceptable pH of 7-8.
- Cannot contain algae or harmful bacteria.
- Flow must be controlled so that it does not cause erosion problems. Gradually drain the pool water onto landscape areas. Water discharged must not cross property lines.

## **Pool Filters**

Clean your filter over a lawn or other landscaped area where the discharge can be absorbed. Collect materials on filter clot and dispose into the trash. Diatomaceous earth can not be discharged into the street or storm sewer system. Dry it out as much as possible, bag it in a plastic and dispose into the trash.

## **Acid Washing**

Acid wash water is NOT allowed into the storm sewer system. 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 and no higher than 11.

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River. The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources, including grease spills, dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials. Cass County Government is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.

