



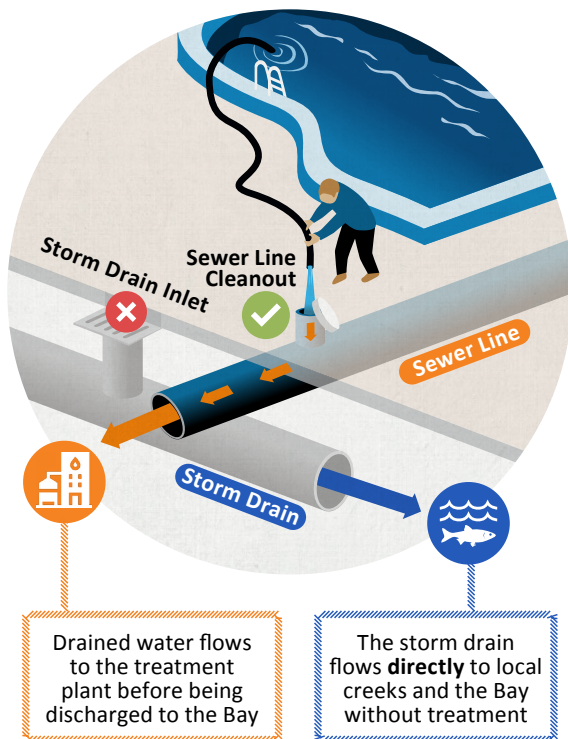
STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR POOLS, SPAS, AND FOUNTAINS

The City of Palo Alto wants to help your business comply with state and local laws that help prevent pollutants from flowing to creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Facilities with a pool, spa, or fountain, such as hotels and multi-unit complexes, are required to follow City of Palo Alto's Municipal Code Chapter 16.09, 16.11, and 16.13 and the Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in this fact sheet.

ONLY RAINWATER IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM.



Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly to the storm drain system is prohibited and may result in fines.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Preventative Maintenance

- Regularly inspect pools, spas, and fountains for signs of algal growth.
- Prevent algae problems with regular cleanings, proper chlorine levels, and well-maintained water filtration and circulation equipment.
- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize corrosion of copper pipes.
- Avoid using pool chemicals (such as algaecides) with copper, tributyltin, chromium, zinc, or molybdenum. While these active ingredients effectively control the growth of various types of algae, they threaten aquatic life in our creeks and the Bay.
- Ensure that pool, spa, and fountain systems are free of leaks and operate within the design parameters. If a leak is found, discharge to a landscaped area or capture the water and dispose of it in a sanitary sewer system cleanout. If the leak cannot be controlled or contained, contact the City of Palo Alto's 24-hour emergency number at (650) 329-2413.
- Do not clean the filter in the street or near storm drain inlets. Instead, rinse cartridge filters or backwash diatomaceous earth filters onto a landscaped/dirt area and dispose of spent diatomaceous earth and other residue in the trash.
- Do not hose down the pool/spa deck or other impervious areas unless wash water can be directed to a pervious area (landscape or gravel area) without overflowing to the sidewalk or street, or if wash water can be contained and collected and disposed of through a cleanout or drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. Discharging to the sanitary sewer requires an Exceptional Waste Discharge Permit. Visit cityofpaloalto.org/permits for more information.
- Store chemicals in a clean, dry, well-ventilated, covered area.

Draining

- Do not drain swimming pools, spas, and fountains to the street, storm drain inlets, or into an area that flows to a creek.
- If the pool is 20,000 gallons or less, discharge by either:
 - A hose and pump or other temporary system directed into a sanitary sewer cleanout (not storm drain system); OR
 - A fixed pipe with an air gap and receiving sink directed to the sanitary sewer system.
 - Flow rates should be under 30 gallons per minute to avoid sewer overflows.
 - Drain pools during dry weather only to help avoid sewer overflows.

For pools larger than 20,000 gallons, contact the Regional Water Quality Control Plant at Pretreatment@cityofpaloalto.org prior to draining to avoid a sewer backup.

Employee Training

- Train all employees on BMPs, pollution prevention, and spill clean-up methods.
- Maintain training records onsite.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BUSINESSES

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater flows into streets and gutters picking up pollutants, such as oil, litter, and sediment before it enters the storm drain system and travels to local creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Stormwater **is not treated** before being discharged into waterways. Your business can help prevent water pollution by following these best management practices.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Refuse Containers

- Locate all refuse (trash, recycling, and compost) handling, storage, and disposal areas away from storm drain inlets or creeks and ensure proper labeling.
- Keep dumpster lids closed at all times and keep areas free of debris.
- Do not pour any FOG or oily waste into dumpsters.
- Keep dumpsters in good condition and ensure that leaks are not occurring. Visit greenwasteofpaloalto.com to learn more about commercial trash services provided by the City and to replace leaking dumpsters.

Storm Drain Inlets

- Clearly mark storm drain inlets with the words “No Dumping - Flows to Bay” or equivalent.
- Annually inspect and clean out all storm drain inlets on your property with a vacuum or shovel before the rainy season. Storm drain inlets at sites where sediment and other debris are generated or stored may need to be monitored, cleaned, and maintained at a higher frequency.

Outside Areas

- Keep outdoor areas and refuse areas free of trash, sediment, wash water, cigarette butts, and any other potential pollutants.
- If any paved areas are cleaned with water, wash water must be contained, captured, and reused, or properly disposed of in a private sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Cleaning solutions, fluids that cannot be recycled, and absorbent materials used for cleanup may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. Learn more at cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste.

Spill Response

- Keep spill kit updated, labeled, and easily accessible. Include spill response plan/directions.
- Clean up surface residues that can wash into a storm drain inlet before rain events.
- Contain spills and protect nearby storm drain inlets immediately.
- Manage spills by dry-mopping or using absorbent material. Sweep up waste immediately with a broom or wet/dry mop and dispose of properly.

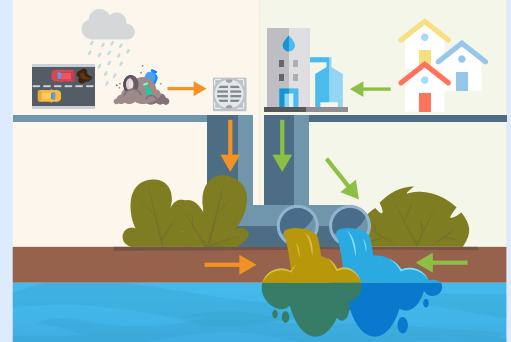
Documentation and Record Keeping

- Keep maintenance and BMP training documentation on site and available upon request by City staff.

Different Systems, Different Rules

Water from the storm drain system **is not treated** before entering the Bay.

Wastewater from homes and businesses **is treated** before entering the Bay.



There are two different drain systems for most businesses:

- (1) storm drains** are outdoors and carry stormwater runoff directly to local creeks and the Bay without treatment and
- (2) sanitary sewer drains**, often indoors, carry wastewater to a treatment plant before being discharged to the Bay.

Different regulations apply to these systems. For more information on stormwater, visit CityofPaloAlto.org/Stormwater-Businesses. For more information on requirements for sanitary sewer discharges, visit CleanBay.org.