

# Swimming Pools, Fountains & Spas

## Best Management Practices



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

24 Hour Stormwater Hotline 218.299.5386  
E-mail: [stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us)  
Web site: [www.cityofmoorhead.com](http://www.cityofmoorhead.com)

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants like chlorine and sediment from entering the storm sewer system.

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 Wastewater Treatment Plant at 218.299.5386.

**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.
- ◆ Can not carry debris or vegetation.
- ◆ Should have an acceptable pH of 7-8.
- ◆ Can not 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 filter over a lawn or other landscaped area where the discharge can be absorbed. Collect materials on filter cloth 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

Storm drains are NOT connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plants.

The primary purpose of a storm drain is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. As water flows over the ground it picks up a variety of pollutants which then flow to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways.

