

## OTHER BMP'S TO CONSIDER *(Continued)*

**Landscape Buffer Zones** - Make use of native plants to form a good buffer zone of vegetation around your pool, pond, spa and/or fountain to help keep any contaminants from leaving the area. This is especially important on sloped landscapes, and particularly when a waterway is adjacent to or within the property. A bermed area or depression may be constructed and then well vegetated to help hold treated water discharges for soil infiltration and away from streets, waterways, ditches or storm drains.

**Decks** - Sweep or blow your deck instead of using water. When water is necessary for cleaning, use flow control to minimize water usage. When using chlorine, acid, soap or chemical cleaners direct diluted wash waters to a grassy area. Concentrated cleaning agents **can not** be discharged to the environment.

**Chemical Storage:** Store all pool, pond, spa and/or fountain chemicals in a secure, dry, and cool place. **Never** hose spills into a sewer or storm water drain. Take unused or unwanted chemicals to a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District at 14201 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina California. Hours of operation: M – F, 6:30 am – 5:00 pm; Sat, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm; (831) 384-5313.

## ON-LINE RESOURCES

- Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Program (MRSWMP) - <http://www.montereysea.org/>.
- Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency - <http://www.mrwpc.org/>.
- The tips in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution. If you should have suggestions or questions, please contact us electronically via: [doug@mrwpc.com](mailto:doug@mrwpc.com). *(D. Dowden, Rev 06/27/13)*

## PARTICIPATING MRSWMP ENTITIES

Carmel-by-the-Sea	(831) 620-2010
City of Del Rey Oaks	(831) 394-8511
City of Marina	(831) 884-1212
City of Monterey	(831) 646-3921
County of Monterey	(831) 755-4800
City of Pacific Grove	(831) 648-5722
Sand City	(831) 394-1386
City of Seaside	(831) 899-6825

## COORDINATING ENTITIES

### Pebble Beach Company Area

Unincorporated	(831) 755-4800
Pebble Beach Co.	(831) 625-8402
Unified School Districts <i>(Carmel, Monterey Peninsula &amp; Pacific Grove)</i> .	

## QUESTIONS OR TO REPORT

Emergency spills	911 or (831) 394-6811
<u>Non-Emergency spills</u>	
Monterey Peninsula	(831) 647-7900
Salinas	(831) 755-5111
Hazardous Materials	911 or (831) 755-4511
Sewer permits	(831) 372-2385
Solid waste & recycling	(831) 647-4201
Ca. Fish & Wildlife	1 - (888) 334-2258

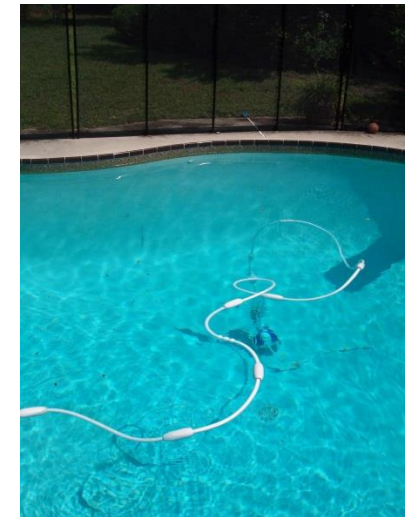
## MRSWMP MONTHLY MEETINGS

The MRSWMP Group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday every month, unless otherwise noted at: <http://www.montereysea.org> at 10:00 at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey CA 93940. To receive monthly meeting notices and/or routine program updates please contact the Stormwater Program Manager at (831) 645-4621 or [Doug@mrwpc.com](mailto:Doug@mrwpc.com).

**More Information (831) 645-4621 or visit: <http://www.montereysea.org/>**



## *Best Management Practices for Pool Maintenance!*



The leisurely California lifestyle of lounging poolside is a great way to live! However, the effects of having a pool on one's property can be far reaching and can have a deleterious effect upon local water quality, if pool maintenance is not done appropriately. The useful tips and suggestions outlined in this brochure are intended to help prevent water pollution caused by routine pool, pond, spa and fountain maintenance activities.

**More Information Call**

**Storm Water Management at (831) 645-4621**

## SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE BMP'S

What are BMP's? Well, simply Best Management Practices (BMP's) are **procedures and practices that all of us need to incorporate into our daily routines to help prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains and the environment.** This brochure provides background information and BMP's for preventing potential sources of water pollution caused from basic **pool, pond, spa, and fountain maintenance.**



Potential sources of water pollution from pool, pond, spa and fountain maintenance activities include **toxic chemicals, nutrients, and sediments** entering the storm drain system and discharging into nearby surface water bodies and the Bay. These materials, when discharged into the Stormwater Conveyance System (SCS - gutters, streets, drainage canals, storm drains and creeks) can have a deleterious effect upon the fragile aquatic ecosystems in our community.

Following the Best Management Practices outlined in this brochure will not only help you comply with local, state and federal water quality regulations, but also make a significant impact towards improving water quality in our local creeks, estuaries and ocean. Ensuring a high level of water quality in both surface and ground waters is important for humans and wildlife alike.

## WHAT DRAINAGE SYSTEMS DO?

Typically there are two drainage systems – **the sanitary sewers and the SCS.** The SCS is designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from urbanized areas to our local creeks and then to the ocean. Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the unintended function of carrying urban water pollution straight to our

local creeks and the Bay. These discharges whether deliberate or not contribute to urban runoff pollution which contaminates creeks, the ocean, close beaches, harms aquatic life, and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins. The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to a wastewater treatment plant for disinfection and treatment.

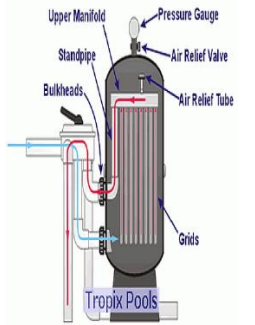
Many pools, ponds, spas and fountains are plumbed directly to the **sanitary sewer system.** Others are not! In either case consider the following prior to discharging the water from these recreational and landscape features:

- **Chlorine:** You can find out how much chlorine is in your water by using a pool testing kit. Excess chlorine can be removed by discontinuing the use of chlorine for two weeks prior to discharge or by purchasing dechlorinating chemicals from a local pool supply company. Always make sure to follow the instructions that come with any products you use. **Never** allow any of the water to run-off of your property.
- Use excess water to irrigate landscaping, but first make sure that the chemicals in the treated water won't cause harm to your landscape.
- Before gradually draining the water onto landscaped areas, you should **dechlorinate** the water by letting it sit for up to two weeks. If you use a **copper-based algaecide**, let the water sit up to a month, since **copper** can be toxic to plant and aquatic life.



- **Sanitary Sewer System<sup>1</sup>:** After dechlorinating the water, or if you do not use copper-based algaecides, you may be able to get a permit to discharge to the **sanitary sewer system<sup>1</sup>** by running a hose to a utility sink or sewer pipe cleanout junction.

- The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) prohibits backwashing into the **sanitary sewer system<sup>1</sup>** from **diatomaceous earth filters (DE filters).** A separation tank should be used before discharging waste water into the **sanitary sewer system<sup>1</sup>.** The algae and larger particles collected in the separation tank are solid waste and should be disposed of as trash.



- **Sand filtered water,** however, can be directly discharged into the **sanitary sewer system<sup>1</sup>.**

- **Additives that change water color,** such as aqua-blue dyes used in fountains, alter water temperature, filter out sunlight and prevent algae growth. Water containing dyes should be discharged to the **sanitary sewer system<sup>1</sup>** for filtration.

## OTHER BMP'S TO CONSIDER

- Most experts recommend **not using copper-based algaecides** unless absolutely necessary. Control algae with chlorine, organic polymers or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals. Copper is a powerful herbicide. Sewage treatment technology cannot remove all of the metals that enter the treatment plant.

- ⊗ **The disposal of pool, pond, and spa or fountain water via the SCS is prohibited under federal, state and local rules and regulations.**