



Storm drains flow directly to our creeks and rivers.

Draining pools, spas or fountains to storm drains can be toxic to aquatic life in our local creeks and rivers.

Storm drains flow directly into our creeks and rivers without treatment.

Pollutants of concern in swimming pool water are copper, chlorine or chloramine used as a detergent.

Copper is a pollutant that threatens aquatic life in our creeks and rivers. It is used as an algaecide in pools, spas and fountains. Chemical algaecides containing copper, chlorine, sediment and other contaminants should never be discharged to the sewer system or storm drains.



Properly maintaining your pool and spa will reduce the need for draining.

Clean regularly, maintain proper chlorine levels and maintain the water filtration and circulation system.

Minimize algae buildup to prevent the need for toxic algaecides. Ask your pool maintenance service for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algaecides.

Never clean a filter in the street, gutter or storm drain.

Rinse cartridges or filters onto a dirt area to prevent silt from reaching the storm drain.

Residents of the City of Merced have a great influence over the quality of stormwater. Our hope is that this brochure has given you some insight on how you can be a part of the team to ensure our city is a safe and healthy place to live. This brochure is intended to help get you started.

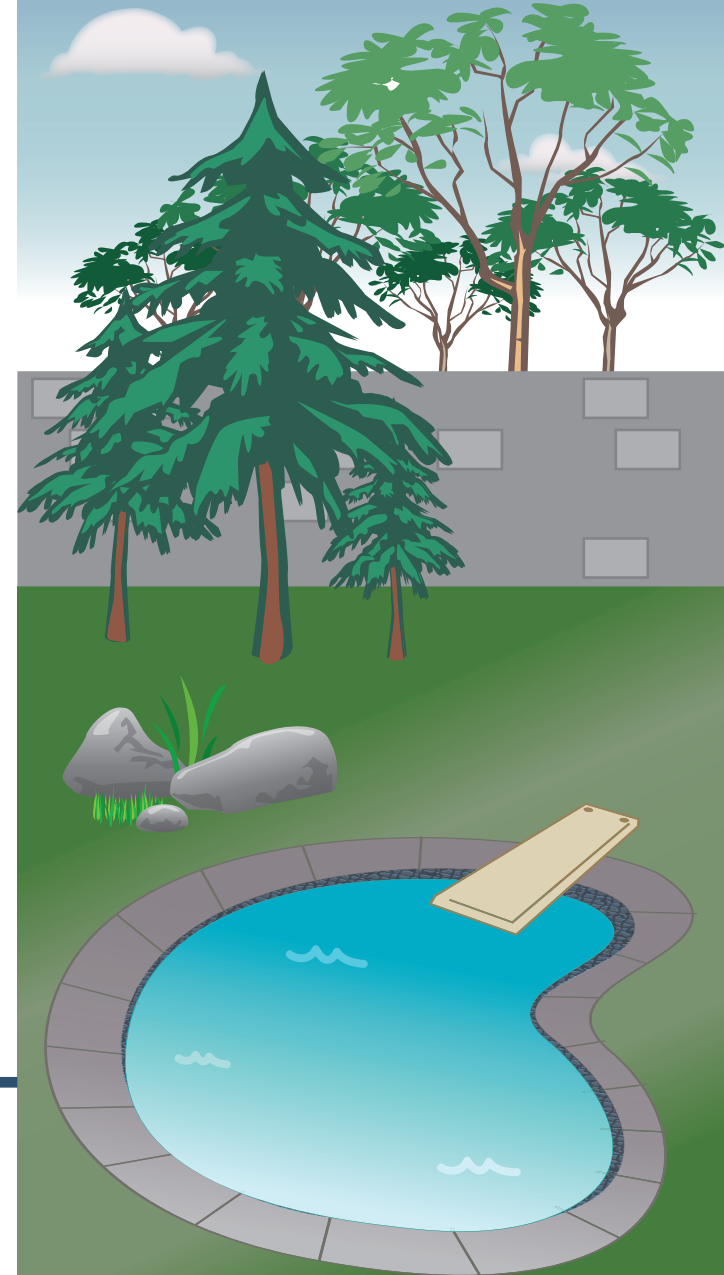


Merced Municipal Code, Title 15, Division III - Storm Water System

City of Merced Public Works
Water Quality Control Division
1776 Grogan Avenue
Merced, CA 95341
Phone: 209.385.6204
Fax: 209.388.8751



DRAINING POOLS, SPAS and FOUNTAINS



Properly drain, or backwash, your pool.

Prior to draining your pool, spa or fountain contact the City of Merced Public Works Department at 209.385.6800 to inform them.

The City of Merced is a regulated MS4, which stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. This means that our storm drain system and sewer system are separate. The storm drain system directs rain water to the local creeks and rivers, while the sewer system directs sewer waste to the City of Merced Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Prior to discharging pool water to a cleanout or storm drain allow pool to dechlorinate and use test strips to ensure the pool water's pH is neutral (pH 6-10).

If backwashing into the sewer cleanout or storm drain, do not allow the passage of soil, sediment, rock, sand, debris or other solid material during the discharge. This could potentially create a sanitary sewer overflow in the street and/or on your property. NEVER drain pool water into or toward a sanitary sewer manhole installed in the street.

Another option is to discharge the pool water over your lawn if the pool water is green and confirmed chlorine-free.

Cleaning Filters

All residential pool water discharged from a waste line must flow through a backwash separation tank or sediment trap, before it can be discharged into the sewer line or storm drain. It is very important to filter sand and dirt particles from the water because they do not dissolve and can clog the sewer lines.

Filters should be cleaned and rinsed over a vegetated area or all rinse water should be captured and filtered to remove any solids prior to being discharged into the sewer system or storm drain. Dispose of all captured solids as trash.

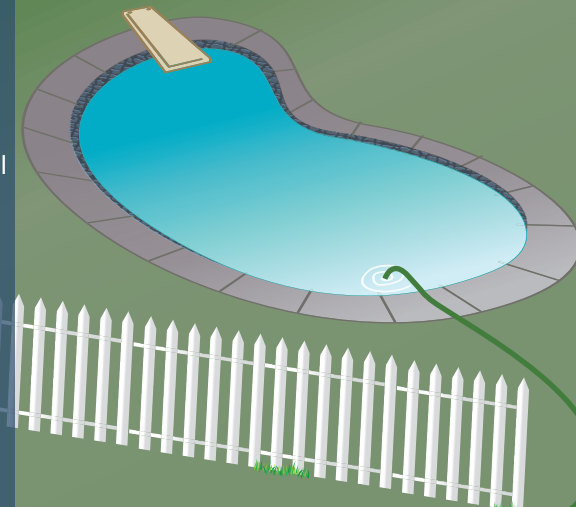
What does a sanitary sewer clean-out look like?

Look on your property for a small circular cap on a pipe. This may be sticking out of your house or out of the ground.



OR

Look on your property for a small concrete or metal cover marked "SEWER" or "C.O.". Cleanouts are located under them.



Sewer line clean-out

Sewer Line

Storm drain

To WWTP



Storm drain flows directly to local creeks and rivers.

Material Storage, Handling and Spills

Store pool chemicals in a clean, dry and covered area.

Clean up spills using absorbent materials and then dispose of all waste properly.

Chemical containers that still have product in them cannot go into your regular trash. They are hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly. Empty chemical containers must be rinsed prior to disposal. The rinse water should be used in your pool, spa, or fountain.