Pool/Spa/Fountain Resources

To De-Chlorinate or De-Brominate:

- Option 1: Remove any chlorine tablets that remain in system or, if applicable, turn off salt system and remove pool cover. Cl and Br will evaporate off in a matter of one to several weeks. Running pump can expedite somewhat. Length of time will depend on temperature and sunlight. More sunlight = faster de-chlorination/de-bromination. **Test to confirm thorough de-chlorination prior to discharge to landscape or storm drain.** Note: bromine in not used in outdoor pools because it is very sensitive to UV light and breaks down rapidly in its presence. It is sometimes used in spas or indoor pools.

- Option 2: Remove any chlorine tablets remaining in system or, if applicable, turn off salt system and remove pool cover. Add sodium bisulfite or sodium thiosulfate according to manufacturer's instructions. **Test to confirm thorough de-chlorination prior to discharge to landscape or storm drain.**

To Remove Copper:

- Use phosphonic acid, aka "Pool Magnet". Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Use chelating agents like "Metal Free". Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a clarifier to "pick-up" the metals and keep in suspension. Follow up with a product called "CF-138" from the S.W.I.M. Company. Generically speaking it is a "pure cellulose filtration media" that you put into your filter (*except* diatomaceous earth filters) that will remove the copper as the water is run through the filter. The spent filter and CF-138 needs to be disposed of properly at a household hazardous waste facility.

To Prevent Algae Build-Up:

- As always, prevention is the key to avoiding problems. The goal is to keep your pool chemically well-balanced and free of phosphates which are food for algae. Several phosphate removers are readily available in pool stores such as "Phosphree" and "Phosfree".

To Kill Algae *Without* the use of Copper Algaecides:

- High concentrations of chlorine can be used to "shock" the pool and kill algae. Consult pool retailer for specific products.
- For use in ponds and fountains **ONLY**: Green Clean is a non-copper based algaecide available from the Real Goods Catalog, www.realgoodscatalog.com. Their other product, Alpine Blue, is a nontoxic aquatic dye that reduces the amount of light penetrating the water thereby inhibiting plant growth.

A quick warning about draining pools: Draining a pool completely or even a few feet can sometimes cause a catastrophic situation called "floating" in which the pool will literally pop up out of the ground because of the hydrostatic pressure from below, causing extensive damage to the pool and equipment. It's a good idea to remind pool owners about this and suggest they seek the advice of a pool professional before draining.

Local Pool Stores:

Leslie's Pool Supplies – Well-known chain with many locations. Free in-store testing of pool water.
Aquarius Pool and Spa Service – 1822 Mt. Diablo Ave, Walnut Creek, (925) 933-3310. Retail store, pool servicing, pool water testing.
Keys Pool Service Incorporated – 827 Arnold Drive, Suite 8, Martinez. (925) 370-0600. Free in-store testing of pool water.

To Drain Your Pool or Spa to the Sanitary Sewer:

If algaecides are used in your pool, testing may be required prior to draining your pool to the sewer.

STEP 1:
Locate the sewer clean out on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or toilet that you will be using.

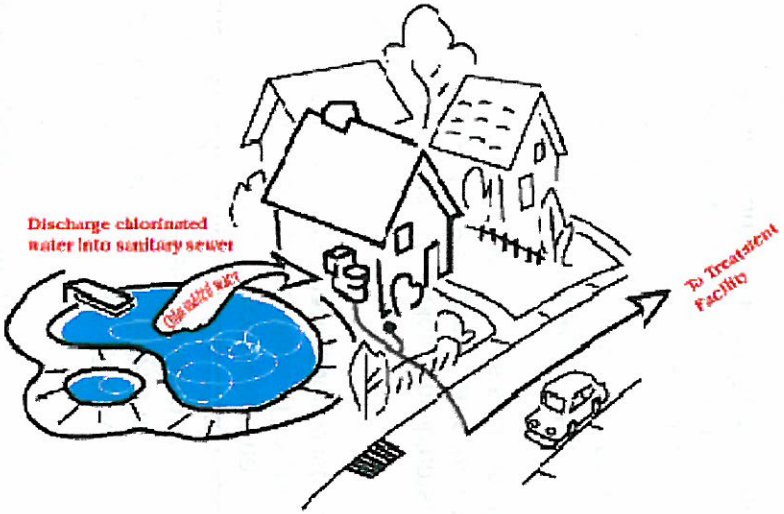
STEP2:
Notify your local sanitary district and/or wastewater treatment plant 24 hours prior to draining your pool or spa.

STEP 3:
Obtain a sump pump that pumps approximately 20 gallons or less per minute. You will also need a hose and an extension cord. Sump pumps are available at your local home improvement or equipment rental store.

STEP 4:
Pump the water from your pool or spa to the sewer clean out or indoor drain. When finished, make sure to replace any clean out covers to keep rodents out of the sewer.

When Draining or Back Washing to a Vegetated Area, the Water Should Not Leave Your Property!

Pool and Spa Water and Filter Back Wash Should be Drained to the Sanitary Sewer or a Vegetated Area NOT to the Storm Drain or Gutter



If you're on a septic system, let the chlorine dissipate for 5 - 7 days and then drain it gradually on to a landscaped area or unpaved surface on your property.

Why is Pool and Spa Water and Filter Back Wash Harmful to Creeks?

Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

iatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand filter back wash can fill in stream gravel preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber's fine particles will also ›ud creek water and clog fish gills.

Is it Against the Law to Drain my Pool or Spa or Back Wash my Pool Filter to a Storm Drain?

YES ! *Dischargers could be fined up to $25,000 per violation, CA Fish and Game Code Section 5650.*