Pools, Spas And Clean Rivers

Disinfectants and other additives that are good for pools and spas can be bad for rivers and streams. Products such as



chlorine and
bromine that
control pH,
bacteria and
algae can also
pollute water
and harm wildlife.
Products and devices

that contain copper, silver, and other metals can damage aquatic life and may accumulate in the environment, causing long-term problems.

Here are some tips to keep pools and spas in good shape and help protect rivers and streams at the same time.

Clean River Tips For Pools And Spas

- When possible, drain pools and spas to the sanitary sewer, not storm drains. Water that runs into streets and gutters and down storm drains flows directly to rivers and streams. Water that flows into sanitary sewers goes to the sewage treatment plant.
- Don't discharge pool or spa water to a street, gutter, storm drain, drainage ditch, or directly to streams. High discharge rates from a pool or spa can scour sensitive stream beds and banks and damage wildlife habitat.
- Avoid using metal-based pool chemicals.

When You Clean Your Filter

- Never clean your filter in the street or near a storm drain.
- Rinse cartridge filters in a sink, if possible. Otherwise, direct rinse water from cartridge filters onto a dirt area and spade the filter residue into the soil.
- Direct rinse water from sand or diatomaceous earth filters onto a dirt or grassy area. Dispose of spent diatomaceous earth filters in the garbage.

If You Have An Algae Problem

- Regular cleaning, maintaining proper chlorine levels, and good water filtration and circulation can prevent algae problems. Heavy chlorination and some elbow grease can usually eliminate algae.
- If chlorine and brushing are not effective, consult your local pool supply store about algae treatments that do not contain copper. If you use a pool maintenance service, ask them to take care of the problem without algaecides that contain copper.

