

Building Maintenance and Repair



Issue Date: August 2018

SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE / DISCHARGES

SCM-PP/GH-33



Description

Maintenance of swimming pools and discharge of swimming pool water can introduce sediments, nutrients, metals, and oil and grease into storm sewers and waterways. Implementing the following management practices can help minimize the introduction of pollutants into the storm sewers and waterways.

NYC MS4 SPDES Permit Requirement(s)

IV.A Public Outreach/Education
IV.G Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations
IV.H Industrial/Commercial Sources

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Targeted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming pool maintenance Discharge of swimming pool water
Performance Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize pollutants entering storm sewers and waterways Implement good housekeeping practices
Most Effective Controls <small>(more detail on page 2)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain chlorine levels to allow safe discharge Discharge pool water only to sanitary sewer Vacuum or brush pool sides and bottom daily or as needed

RELATED CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS

Related SCMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCM-PP/GH-9 SCM-PP/GH-19 SCM-PP/GH-26 SCM-PP/GH-27 SCM-PP/GH-31
Other Regulatory Requirements*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 NYCRR Part 6 Subpart 6-1 15 RCNY Chapter 19

EFFECTIVENESS FOR TARGETED POLLUTANTS / IMPAIRMENTS

	Floatables
✓	Sediments
	Nitrogen
✓	Phosphorus
	Pathogens
	Oxygen Demand
	PCBs
✓	Metals
✓	Petroleum Products/PAHs

✓✓ = Good ✓ = Fair = Poor

CONTROL STRATEGIES

✓	Cover/Contain
✓	Clean Up
✓	Reduce/Minimize
✓	Product Substitutions
✓	Manage Runoff
	Capture/Treat/Dispose

✓ = Yes

*Note: RCNY: Rules of the City of New York; NYCRR: New York Codes, Rules and Regulations; CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

Listed regulatory requirements are not inclusive of all legal requirements applicable to NYC facilities. Local, state, and/or federal regulations should be consulted to ensure full regulatory compliance.

Control Strategies/Suggested Practices

COVER/CONTAIN

- Store pool chemicals and maintenance materials in tightly sealed containers under cover.
- Routinely check chemical and maintenance containers for leaks.
- Install secondary containment for stored chemicals.

CLEAN UP

- Vacuum or brush pool sides and bottom daily or as needed to remove visible material.
- Clean spills immediately and properly dispose of waste material.
- Dispose of contaminated, routine cleaning materials properly.

REDUCE/MINIMIZE

- When pool water discharge is needed, the level of chlorine and bromine residuals should be checked to verify that it is within acceptable limits prior to discharge. Application of chlorine or bromine should be stopped several days in advance of discharge.
- Discharge of pool water should only occur to the sanitary sewer,[†] or overland if space allows and is approved. Discharge should not occur to the storm sewer or surface waters.
- Follow mandated ranges for maintaining swimming pool chemical levels.
- The pH of discharge water should be within an acceptable range when discharged.
- Do not discharge settled material with pool water.
- Use a makeup meter to help monitor leaks. Repair cracks if they occur and have the potential for leakage.
- Minimize the use of hoses to clean pools and pool areas. Sweep or vacuum solid material and debris first to reduce the volume of floatables entering waterways.

PRODUCT SUBSTITUTION

- Quaternary ammonia compounds are recommended over algicides such as copper or silver due to toxicity to plants.

MANAGE RUNOFF

- Deflect pool cleaning runoff away from storm drains, inlets, and waterways.

CAPTURE/TREAT/DISPOSE

N/A

[†] Discharge to the sanitary or combined sewer system requires approval from NYCDEP.

References

1. NYS Department of Public Health, *Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, Part 6, Subpart 6-1 Swimming Pools*, July 2011.
2. Western New York Stormwater Coalition, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Environmental Compliance Services, *Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: A Guidance Document of Best Management Practices and Inspection Checklist*, April 2006.
3. California Urban Water Conservation Council, *Evaluation of Potential Best Management Practices, Pools, Spas, and Fountains*, September 2010.