

# Pollutants of Concern: Chlorine, Acid Wash, Erosion—Pools & Spas

Stormwater Coalition  
of Albany County



## Drain Pools, Fountains and Spas Slowly to the Lawn



## Person Acid Washing A Concrete Swimming Pool



## Clean Pool Filters on Lawn



## General Information

Water from the maintenance of pools, spas and fountains can pose a major risk for stormwater through erosion, increase in sediments and the addition of pollutants such as chlorine and acid wash. High pressure, high volume hoses used to drain can increase erosion at the drainage site or by adding more volume quickly to the storm drains and causing a problem downstream. Cleaning filters near storm drains can add volume and sediment to stormwater. Chlorine easily dissolves in water and reacts with other chemicals. It can cause harm to aquatic and soil organisms even at low levels. Acid wash, if not properly neutralized can lower the PH levels of stream habitats potentially beyond the tolerable levels of native aquatic organisms.

## Best Management Practices

- Do not drain chlorinated water directly into the street or storm sewer or clean filter near a storm sewer.
- Let water stand for around 10 days prior to discharging in order for chlorine to dissipate, then drain to lawn.
- Clean filters on lawn area where water will be absorbed into the ground.
- Let pools, spas and fountains drain slowly with low volume.
- Make sure acid wash used to clean pools is neutralized before discharging.
- Read and follow directions carefully for all chemicals used in pool, spa and fountain maintenance.

## Additional Information

### EPA

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menufbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=103>

[http://www.epa.gov/chemfact/f\\_chlori.txt](http://www.epa.gov/chemfact/f_chlori.txt)

### NYSDEC

[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials\\_minerals\\_pdf/hhwma.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/hhwma.pdf)

### Other

<http://www.arlingtontx.gov/environmentalservices/pdf/StormwaterSwimmingPool.pdf>

[http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/2009\\_Pool\\_Spa\\_SWCoal\\_Brochures\\_EMAIL\\_FINAL\\_11-4.pdf](http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/2009_Pool_Spa_SWCoal_Brochures_EMAIL_FINAL_11-4.pdf)