



Florida *Green Lodging* Program

Properly Managing Stormwater for the Hospitality Industry



| Activity | Tips for Managing Stormwater | Additional Information |
|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">General Landscaping& Site Maintenance</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Landscaping debris, leaves, grass clippings and sediment must be recycled, composted or disposed of properly. They should not be hosed, swept or blown into a stormwater drain for disposal. Pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides should be used wisely. Use only when other methods fail, only in accordance with manufactures instructions, and do not apply if rain is in the forecast. ➤ Remove debris and litter such as drink containers, bags and cigarette butts from parking areas and stormwater systems and recycle or dispose of properly as needed. ➤ Keep the lids on all garbage and recycling compactors, dumpsters or other containers. Do not permit liquid draining from these containers to finds its way to the stormwater drains | <p>For additional information, including publications visit: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm</p> <p>You can also contact your local government for additional information.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Educate your Guests</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clearly Mark stormwater drains that discharge directly to stormwater facilities or water bodies such as lakes, streams or estuaries. Try signs such as “Lagoon – No Litter” or “No Dumping! Drains to Bay.” | <p>For additional information, including publications visit: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Golf Courses</p> | <p><u>"Best Management Practices for Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses"</u> 2007. This 136 page book discusses possibilities for environmental stewardship and pollution prevention at golf courses.</p> | <p>Available online at: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Swimming Pool Discharges</p> | <p>See Page 3</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Cleaning Wastewaters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Storm drains are only for stormwater. Cleaning wastewaters generated from mopping, carpet cleaning and other cleaning practices must be disposed of properly via sanitary sewer, if allowable. ➤ Wastewater generated from cleaning AC coils, air handlers or PTAC units must not be allowed to finds its way to the stormwater drains. Consider using steam cleaning and a wet vacuum to remove material. | <p>Questions on proper disposal can be directed to the local DEP District Office. Visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/dist/default.htm for contact information.</p> |

| Activity | Tips for Managing Stormwater | Additional Information |
|---|--|--|
| Landscape Watering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep irrigation water on the lawn or garden and off the parking areas where runoff from watering can pick up pollutants such as oil, gas and sediments to prevent them from being discharged to the stormwater system. ➤ Use “Florida Friendly” plants in landscaping to reduce the need for watering. | <p>"Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook: A Guide to Environmentally Friendly Landscaping" from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Describes how to minimize nonpoint source pollution from landscapes, especially residential ones. Available online at: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm</p> |
| Chemicals, Fertilizer, Pesticides & Paint | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Store and label substances properly and out of potential flood areas to avoid leaks and spills. ➤ Clean up spills immediately and dispose of properly. ➤ Properly manage all excess or dated products through established waste collection programs or donate unused portions such as paints to local organizations. | <p>Questions on proper disposal can be directed to the local DEP District Office. Visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/dist/default.htm for contact information.</p> |

See Rule 62-624.200(2), Florida Administrative Code for the complete details.

SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGES

Background:

Swimming pool discharges can be a source of illicit discharges in municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). Chlorine and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a negative impact on the plant and aquatic life in surface waters. Even at low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life. Subsection 62-302.530(19), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) limits the discharge of chlorine to surface water bodies to ≤ 0.01 milligram per liter (mg/L). In addition, turbidity associated with backwashing and cleaning can also violate surface water quality standards.

Existing Regulations:

The Florida Department of Health regulates public swimming pools and bathing places. Subsection 64E-9.007 (15) "Pool waste water disposal" states in part: "Pool waste water shall be discharged through an air gap; disposal shall be to sanitary sewers, storm sewers, drainfields, or by other means, in accordance with local municipal and building official requirements including obtaining all necessary permits."

Other states including Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, require public swimming pools to obtain a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge wastewater from public swimming pools. There is no such requirement in the Florida. Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges are authorized in Florida in accordance with 62-624.200(2)(q), F.A.C.; provided that they do not cause a violation of water quality standards.

Guidance:

To help protect Florida's environment, the following best management practices should be followed when draining swimming pools or discharging filter backwash into the environment.

- Only drain your pool when necessary. Avoid draining/backwashing your pool during periods of drought and during significant rainfall events. Do not drain your pool when watering restrictions are in place.
- Before draining your pool, allow the water to stand for at least 48 hours after the last addition of chlorine or until the free chlorine residual is ≤ 0.01 mg/L. (If you need to drain your pool quickly, you can purchase chlorine-neutralizing chemicals such as sodium thiosulfate at your local pool supply company.)
- Test the free chlorine residual before discharging. A free chlorine residual should not be detected. The chlorine residual can be tested using a standard pool test kit. (Refer to 64E-9.004 (11), F.A.C. for additional information.)
- The water should be clear and free of solids.
- The pH must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.
- Algaecides containing copper or silver can interrupt normal algal and plant growth in surface water bodies and should be used with caution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before discharging water that has had an algaecide added recently.
- Total suspended solids must be below 60 mg/l. Suspended particles should be allowed to settle out, and the water should not appear murky. Settled material should not be discharged with pool water.
- Control the rate of discharge across your property to avoid erosion and nuisance conditions for neighboring properties. Nuisance conditions such as the creation of odors, mosquito breeding conditions, or flooding can occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.
- Direct the discharge over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur. Direct discharges to surface waters are not allowed.
- Do not discharge on areas recently treated with herbicides or pesticides.

Disposal to Sanitary Sewer Systems:

- Pool and spa wastewater should not be discharged into the sanitary sewer system without the permission of the wastewater treatment facility.
- Avoid discharging to the sanitary sewer system during or immediately after a significant rainfall event.

This document was developed in part using information obtained from the following sources. It should not be considered comprehensive as other local permitting requirements may apply.

Environmental Times. *"From the Pool to the Lagoon. Pool Owners Can Protect The Lake Worth Lagoon."* Reprinted from the *"Lake Worth Lagoon Update."* Spring 2004.

Maryland Department of Environmental Protection. *"Fact Sheet for General No. 01SI Discharges from Swimming Pool and Spas"*

Maryland Department of Environmental Protection. *"Just the Facts About.....Swimming Pool & Spa Guidelines."*