



Stormwater drain markers remind us that we are all connected to our surrounding environment.

Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs

Protect Our Aquatic Environment by Preventing Stormwater Contamination

Spill Prevention

Spills of toxic and hazardous solutions and chemicals used in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas must be cleaned up immediately. Spills should be contained to prevent any products or chemicals from entering the stormwater drainage system.

Some of the chemicals used are corrosive, toxic or have other hazardous properties. Always read the labels and follow the instructions.

In the event of an accidental spill to the environment immediately contact the **Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)** at **1.800.663.3456**. In the event that the chemical is flammable, toxic, corrosive or has other hazardous properties call the **Surrey Fire Department** immediately at **911**.

Any person responsible for stormwater drainages system contamination may be held liable under the following environmental legislation:

- Federal Fisheries Act
- BC Hazardous Waste Regulation
- BC Environmental Management Act
- Surrey By-law No. 16610

For more information

RCBC Recycling Hotline
604.732.9253

City of Surrey, Plumbing Section
604.591.4245

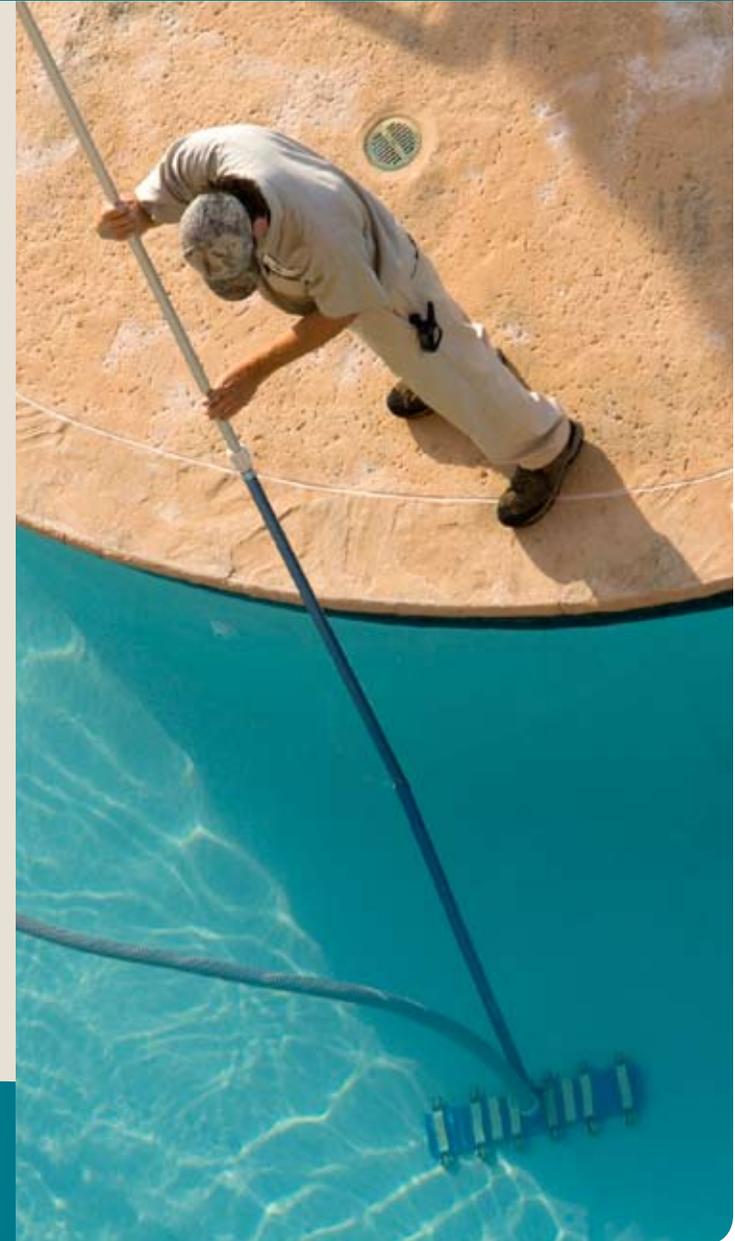
City of Surrey
Drainage & Environment Section
604.591.4321

Metro Vancouver
Source Control
604.436.6777

Surrey Fire Department
604.543.6760

BC Ministry of Environment
604.582.5200

If you witness a spill or chemicals being washed into a stormwater drain, please contact the City of Surrey's Engineering Department at **604.590.7226**, after 4:30pm at **604.591.4431**.



Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs

Many Surrey residents have swimming pools, spas, or hot tubs. Chemicals used for maintenance may contaminate surface and stormwater if they are not stored, used and disposed of correctly. Many of these chemicals are toxic to fish and aquatic life and must be prevented from entering the stormwater drainage system.

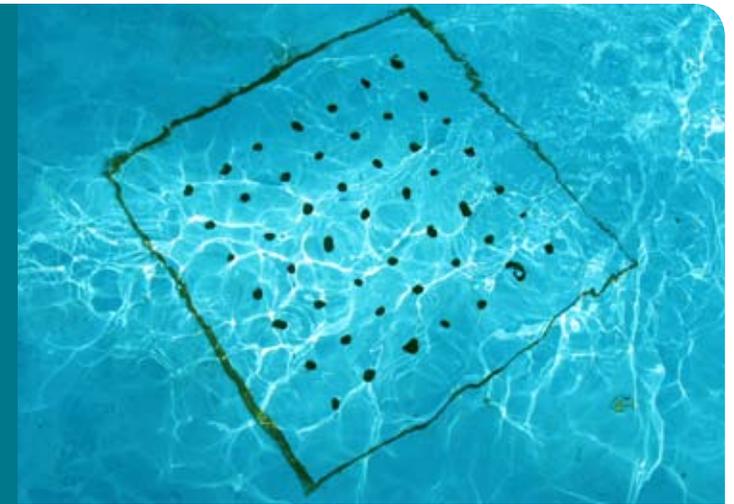
In Surrey, the stormwater drainage system is connected directly to streams, creeks and rivers. There are over 1500 km of open creeks and streams in Surrey and they form an important network, which provide natural habitat for salmon, trout and other aquatic life. Release of chemicals or pool water can drastically affect the creek system. Improper drainage or discharge of pool water to stormwater drains or ditches during maintenance activities can lead to nutrients, suspended solids, chlorine, abnormal pH, and other chemicals entering our creeks, streams and rivers.



Best Management Practices

To prevent chemicals from entering the stormwater drainage system and ultimately our creeks, please observe the following practices if you **do not have a sanitary sewer connection** for your pool, spa or hot tub:

- Remove any solid chlorine or bromine tablets or pucks from the filtration system and disconnect automatic disinfection devices well in advance of draining the water.
- Allow water to stand uncovered until the chlorine or bromine residual is zero. (This could take a few days).
- Consider pumping water via a hose to a sink, toilet or other fixture connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- Backwashing should be done before increasing the chlorine or disinfectant levels.
- Backwash wastes and water can be discharged to the ground in areas where there are no stormwater drains, yard drains, building perimeter drains, ditches or creeks.
- Do not discharge water to the ground if the water will affect neighbouring properties or drain to the stormwater system.
- Pool maintenance waste water, such as cleansing of concrete or tile, must not be discharged to the stormwater drainage system.
- All water treatment, maintenance and cleaning chemicals, must be stored in a secure area where spills will be contained and will not enter the stormwater drainage or the sanitary sewer systems.
- Do not dump old chemicals down the drain. To dispose of old chemicals contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline.



FAST FACTS

Chlorine and bromine are highly toxic to fish and aquatic life even at levels well below the detection limit of the test kits commonly used by homeowners. For example, levels of chlorine as low as 0.002 parts per million could have adverse effects in a creek environment.

Filter backwash, drain and cleaning water may contain chemicals, detergents, excessive pH or other contaminants harmful to fish and aquatic life and must not be allowed to enter the stormwater drains.

