

Pool/Water Feature Discharge & Plan Check Requirements

City of Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.10 and Section 5.20

Any waste discharged into the street or alley is captured by the City's storm drain system and therefore has the potential to adversely impact Santa Monica Bay. This includes wastewater from the maintenance of pools, hot tubs, spas, fountains and other water features. In order to minimize the chances of pollutants affecting public health or the environment the following minimum requirements apply for all pool and water feature maintenance:

1. Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, fountains and water features shall be drained, as a first option, to onsite permeable surfaces, or the on property sanitary sewer. Draining to the storm drain shall only be approved if it can be demonstrated that the aforementioned options are infeasible or unsafe.
2. If draining to the storm drain or sanitary sewer, approval by, and 24-hour advance written notification to, the City's Water Resources Protection Program (WRPP) is required. The notification telephone number is: 310-458-8235. When draining to the sanitary sewer priority shall be given to an onsite private sewer clean out or other onsite private access to the sanitary sewer, in lieu of a City manhole. Draining to a City manhole may require a City approved traffic control plan. If City Wastewater Division determines that their staff is required to observe in order to ensure compliance with City regulations, these costs may be passed on to the property owner.
3. Any such discharge shall not create a safety issue or public nuisance by ponding in the public right-of-way or by flowing uncontained across sidewalks or down alleys.
4. All such water drained to the sanitary sewer or storm drain shall be de-chlorinated and/or debrominated prior to discharge. Documentation of this activity is required.
5. Any such water containing filter back wash, salts (e.g. from "saltwater" pools), detergents, wastes, algaecides, or any chemicals in excess of applicable receiving water quality standards, shall only be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

1. The site plan must show the location of the proposed pool and/or spa.
2. The pool filter backwash shall discharge to the sewer via indirect connection.
3. The site plan must show the location and details of the indirect connection to the sanitary sewer.
4. Instead of connecting to the sewer via indirect connection, pool overflows may outfall to the street through a curb drain or to the alley through a pop-up drain or french drain in strict accordance with SMMC 7.10.070 (a) "Special Discharge Requirements".
 - a. For pools and/or spas with a drain to the sanitary sewer, the location and details of the air gap device(s) must be shown on the plans.
 - b. For pools and/or spas without drains to the sanitary sewer, on the site plan show:
 - i. Location of the existing or proposed sanitary sewer cleanout or permeable surface location near the proposed pool and/or spa; and
 - ii. A sign installed near the pool stating *"DRAIN POOL TO SEWER CLEANOUT OR ONSITE PERMEABLE SURFACES"*.
 - iii. The site plan must show the location and dimensions of all existing easements on the property.
5. Add the following Public Works Standard Notes for Construction to the site plan:
 - A. Owner is responsible for repair of all damage to offsite improvements caused by construction. Call Public Works Inspector at (310) 458-2240 for inspection of offsite improvements at substantial completion of onsite work.
 - B. No work shall be done within the public right-of-way without prior approval and permit from the Public Works Department.
 - C. All work shall be done in accordance with the Standard Specifications/Drawings for Public Works Construction, current edition as amended by the city of Santa Monica, and City of Santa Monica Standards.
 - D. Pool filter backwash shall discharge to the sewer via indirect connection.
 - E. Pool overflows may outfall to the street through a curb drain or to the alley through a pop-up drain or french drain in strict accordance with SMMC 7.10.070 (a) "Special Discharge Requirements".
 - F. New proposed improvements shall not obstruct drainage or drain into neighboring private properties.
 - G. Prior to installation of any cross-connection device, contact the Water Division at (310) 458-8531. Owner/contractor shall comply with Water Division cross-connection guidelines. Prior to issuance of Certificate of Occupancy, cross-connection control inspection must be completed as well (contact Water Division at phone number noted above).
 - H. Install sign near pool stating *"DRAIN POOL TO SEWER CLEANOUT OR ONSITE PERMEABLE SURFACES"* The sign shall be clearly visible.
 - I. No permanent structures shall be installed or trees planted over any utility easements. A minimum 5-ft clearance shall be provided from the outside edge of an existing utility to any permanent structure or tree. Any damage to existing City or privately owned utilities shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the City or private agency at the sole expense of the Property Owner.
 - J. Trees within the public right-of-way cannot be removed or trimmed by the property owner for any reason without the written approval of the City Arborist.