



**C**lean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Swimming pools and spas are common in Orange County, but they must be maintained properly to guarantee that chemicals aren't allowed to enter the street, where they can flow into the storm drains and then into the waterways. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump pool chemicals into the ocean, so don't let it enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455) or visit [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline** **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455).

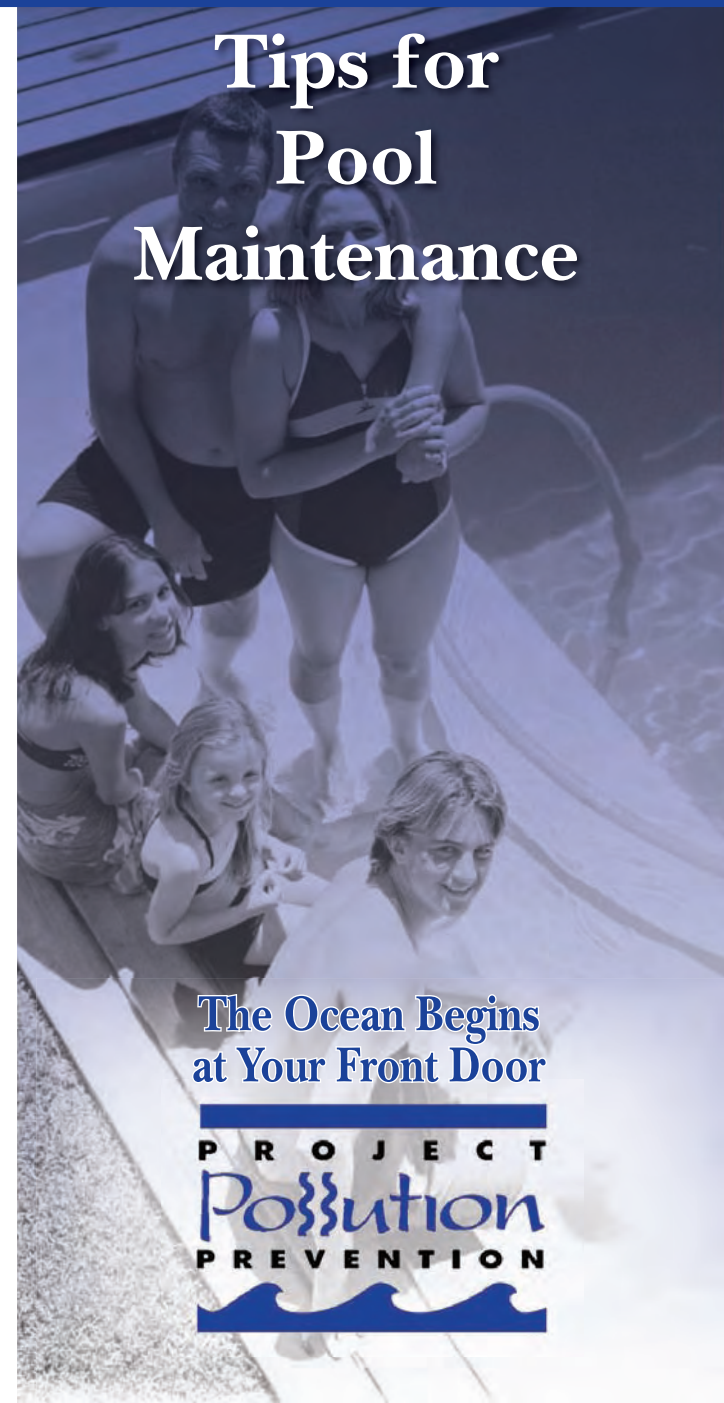
**For emergencies, dial 911.**

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while maintaining your pool. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

## Tips for Pool Maintenance



**The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door**



# Tips for Pool Maintenance

Many pools are plumbed to allow the pool to drain directly to the sanitary sewer. If yours is not, follow these instructions for disposing of pool and spa water.



## *Acceptable and Preferred Method of Disposal*

When you cannot dispose of pool water in the sanitary sewer, the release of dechlorinated swimming pool water is allowed if all of these tips are followed:

- The residual chlorine does not exceed 0.1 mg/l (parts per million).
- The pH is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- The water is free of any unusual coloration, dirt or algae.
- There is no discharge of filter media.
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.

- Some cities may have ordinances that do not allow pool water to be disposed into a storm drain. Check with your city.

## *How to Know if You're Following the Standards*

You can find out how much chlorine is in your water by using a pool testing kit. Excess chlorine can be removed by discontinuing the use of chlorine for a few days prior to discharge or by purchasing dechlorinating chemicals from a local pool supply company. Always make sure to follow the instructions that come with any products you use.



## *Doing Your Part*

By complying with these guidelines, you will make a significant contribution toward keeping pollutants out of Orange County's creeks, streams, rivers, bays and the ocean. This helps to protect organisms that are sensitive to pool chemicals, and helps to maintain the health of our environment.

## *Saline Swimming Pool Water*

Saline water must be directed to the sanitary sewer, landscaped area or other pervious surface that can accommodate the volume of water, unless it can be discharged via pipe directly to a naturally saline water body.