



County of Riverside  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

www.rivcoeh.org

District Environmental Services

**SWIMMING POOLS IMPACTED BY SMOKE AND ASH**

The following guidelines are recommended for the maintenance of pools impacted by smoke and ash contamination or fire damage. Do not allow use of the pool until the following steps have been completed.

1. Clean the skimmer baskets of debris and skim water surface of the pool with a pool net to remove floating debris.
2. Brush the sides and the bottom of pool to loosen contaminants. Vacuum pool.
3. Backwash and clean the filter(s). Ensure you discharge waste and wastewater into a municipal sanitary sewer only. If you are connected to a septic tank system, discharge the backwash to a pervious surface (gravel, lawn, open space) to allow for infiltration without erosion. Backwashing into the storm drain system (alleys, driveways, streets, storm drains) and creeks is **prohibited** by law.
4. Check pH and adjust to between 7.2 and 7.8.
5. Check free chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm.
6. Ensure the recirculation system is operating properly by checking filter pressure and/or the flow meter.
7. Due to the amount of smoke and ash in the air, these steps may need to be repeated after cleaning the filters.

**Deck Cleaning:** Clean the pool deck and dispose of the debris with the rest of the solid waste. Don't hose down the deck to storm drains. You may spray lightly first to minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne, then use a stiff brush or broom to sweep up and discard into the trash. A mop and bucket could also be used for cleanup.

**Draining Pools:** Draining of pools is not recommended. If you must drain the pool, contact your water district for instructions.

**Damaged Pool, Enclosure or Recirculation System:** For pools that have a permit with Environmental Health and have had damage to the recirculation system, the pool enclosure, or the pool shell, contact your Department of Environmental Health Plan Check Specialist at the number listed below, for evaluation.

**Fire Retardant:** If your pool or spa has been impacted by fire retardant, please contact *Phos-Chek* (800) 682-3626 for proper cleaning instructions.

**For our office locations call us at (888) 722-4234 or visit our website at [www.rivcoeh.org](http://www.rivcoeh.org)**