

# Proper Discharge of Swimming Pool Water

## Drain Your Pool in an Approved Manner

When swimming season is over, pool owners need to be careful of how and where they discharge swimming pool water when they lower the level of their pool. The discharge of chlorinated swimming pool water directly into a waterway or into a storm sewer is prohibited.

The storm sewer system (which includes ditches and pipes) was designed to handle runoff from rain and snow only. The water is not treated before it is discharged into area creeks and rivers. If the water contains chlorine, it can be very toxic to fish and other aquatic plants and animals.

Therefore, residential swimming pool water must be dechlorinated before being discharged.

**Do not allow pool water to discharge to a septic system.**

## Dechlorinate Pool Water Before Discharging

Reduce the chlorine in the pool water to undetectable levels before draining it. The simplest method is to stop adding chlorine to your uncovered pool and wait. Sunlight will naturally dissipate the chlorine within a few days. It can also be reduced by adding a chemical called sodium thiosulfate, which is available at pool stores. (Always follow the directions). Monitor the chlorine level with a swimming pool chlorine test kit. When there is no longer any detectable chlorine in your swimming pool it is safe to discharge the water. When discharging the water, allow it to flow over a grassy area at a slow rate to allow for some filtration of the water.

## Saltwater Swimming Pools

The recent increase in popularity of saltwater swimming pools has caused many to examine the best method for discharging this type of water. At this time, it is still undecided. The bottom line is that some smaller water bodies can be more severely affected due to the higher salinity of the discharge water. Please exercise caution.

Lastly, in any circumstance the township, village, or city may prohibit any discharge if there is abuse.