

PROPER DISCHARGE OF SWIMMING POOL WATER

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 discharging of chlorinated swimming pool water directly into a waterway or into a storm sewer is prohibited. Always drain your pool water in an approved manner.

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, swimming pool water must be de-chlorinated before being discharged. The simplest method is to stop adding chlorine to your uncovered pool and wait. Sunlight will naturally dissipate the chlorine within a few days (minimum 48 hours of sun). 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. This should be completed to allow the discharge to follow the natural water course and will not discharge onto a neighboring property as well.