



## How do I drain my pool if it can't go into the storm water system?

Swimming pool discharges can be a source of storm water system imbalance and is considered an illicit discharge. Chlorine and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a negative impact on the aquatic life and plants in the detention pond waters. Even at low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life. To help protect Florida's environment, the following Best Management Practices should be followed when draining swimming pools or discharging filter backwash into the environment.

- Only drain your pool when necessary. Avoid draining/backwashing your pool during periods of drought and during significant rainfall events. Do not drain your pool when watering restrictions are in place.
- Before draining your pool, allow the water to stand for at least 48 hours after the last addition of chlorine or until the free chlorine residual is  $\leq 0.01$  mg/L. (If you need to drain your pool quickly, you can purchase chlorine-neutralizing chemicals such as sodium thiosulfate at your local pool supply company.)
- Test the free chlorine residual before discharging. A free chlorine residual should not be detected. The chlorine residual can be tested using a standard pool test kit. (Refer to 64E-9.004 (11), F.A.C. for additional information.)
- The water should be clear and free of solids.
- The pH must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.
- Algaecides containing copper or silver can interrupt normal algal and plant growth in surface water bodies and should be used with caution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before discharging water that has had an algaecide added recently.
- Control the rate of discharge across your property to avoid erosion and nuisance conditions for neighboring properties. Nuisance conditions such as the creation of odors, mosquito breeding conditions, or flooding can occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.
- Direct the discharge over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur.
- Do not discharge on areas recently treated with herbicides or pesticides.

### Disposal to Sanitary Sewer Systems:

Pool and spa wastewater should not be discharged into the sanitary sewer system without the permission of the wastewater treatment facility. Avoid discharging to the sanitary sewer system during or immediately after a significant rainfall event.

This document was developed in part using information obtained from Fl. Dept. Environmental Protection sources.

**It should not be considered comprehensive as other local permitting requirements may apply.**

