

A Guide to Swimming Pool Discharges

Why is Discharging Pool Water a Problem?

Discharges of chlorinated or otherwise chemically treated swimming pool water directly to the ground, to the storm sewer system, and to local streams are not authorized by local ordinance and are hence prohibited by law (Ord. No. 2014-12-07, § 1(24-502), 12-16-2014). The underlying reason is that chlorine and other pool-related chemicals have the potential to significantly alter water chemistry and lower oxygen concentration in streams, both of which are detrimental to fish and other wildlife. It is also unlawful to create a nuisance by permitting large quantities of water to flow onto adjoining properties or roadways



The Brookhaven Storm Sewer Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance, Section (§) 25-648 states:

“It is unlawful for any person to discharge or to cause, permit, or suffer to be discharged any pollutants or any water or stormwater containing any pollutants to any component of the city MS4. Such discharge shall be deemed an illicit discharge and constitutes a violation of the provisions of this article.”

The Dekalb County Ordinance, Section (§) 13-183 Permit Required, states:

“Direct discharge of polluted waters, such as drainage from overflow facilities, filter

backwash waters or contaminated pool drainage from any public or residential pool shall not be made to any outlet or to any portion of the public storm drain system, or to any natural stream or to any body of water or ground surface within the jurisdiction of the board, unless otherwise approved by the director.”

What is the Correct Way to Drain Your Pool?

Swimming pool water may be directly disposed of in the municipal sanitary sewer system without treatment using a sewer clean out located on your property. Do not dispose of pool water directly into a city sanitary sewer manhole, and never discharge chlorinated or chemically treated pool water to the storm sewer system. Residents utilizing the sewer clean-out option to drain a swimming pool must understand that the property owner is liable for any backup or other damage caused by draining a swimming pool into the City sewer.

To Prevent Back-ups

- The safest flow rates are 12 to 15 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
- Watch your hose. The force of the water can cause it to dislodge. Also, make sure the hose is securely inside the drain, but not obstructing the main wastewater flow.
- Monitor the lowest-lying drains in your home. Any back-up will likely appear there first.
- If back-up occurs, stop draining your pool and contact a plumber or a licensed pool service company.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department.