

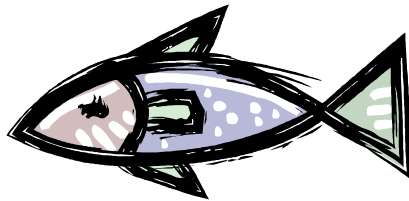
# Storm Water Pollution Prevention:

## Swimming Pools and Spas

What's wrong with draining my spa, pool, or filter backwash to the street or storm drain?



Storm drains lead to rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks. Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill in the spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills, smothering the fish.



There are three simple options for draining your swimming pool. Note that whichever method you choose you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

### **Option 1: Your Lawn.** *The preferred discharge method.*

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass/turf/or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, if and only if you do not cause harm to the environment, do not cause flooding of any other adjacent property, and if the land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff in to a ditch, creek, or storm drain.

### **Option 2: The Sanitary Sewer**

Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer which can be used once the pool water has been **dechlorinated**. **DO NOT** drain swimming pool or spa water to your septic system as it may cause system failure. Follow these steps: Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub. Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps no more than 50 gallons per minute. Pump the water from the pool or spa to the cleanout or indoor drain. Replace all cleanout covers when finished.

### **Option 3: The Storm Drain**

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain **only** after **all** the following conditions are met: Other disposal methods are not possible, the pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated**, the pH of the water is between 6 and 9, there is no discharge of filter media, there is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes, and discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.

**Report Illegal Discharges to the  
Storm Drain System Supervisor**

801-785-2941

**12 STEP STORM DRAIN AWARENESS PROGRAM**

