

Pool Water Pollutes— Dispose of it Properly

Did you know that you may be harming your local lake, creek, or river if you drain your swimming pool or spa water into the gutter? Water in pools and spas is treated with a variety of chemicals (such as chlorine and algaecides) to keep organisms from living in it; if that water is discharged to a storm drain, it will eventually reach a lake, creek, or river where the chemicals can cause harm.



It is illegal to discharge chlorinated swimming pool water or spa water that contains biocides or other chemicals to the storm drain system or sanitary sewer.

This brochure explains where to discharge water when you need to drain your pool or spa. It also explains how to properly dispose of pool-related wastes and how to protect water quality while constructing and repairing a pool.

Polk County Ordinance Ch. 12, Art. VI, Sec. 12-154 **Control of non-stormwater discharges—Prohibition of Illicit discharges.** Any discharge, other than stormwater, to an MS4 or to waters of the United States which is not exempt under section 12-160 of this article is considered an illicit discharge as defined in this article and is prohibited.

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Lakeland, FL 33801**

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Proper Discharge of Swimming Pool and Spa Water



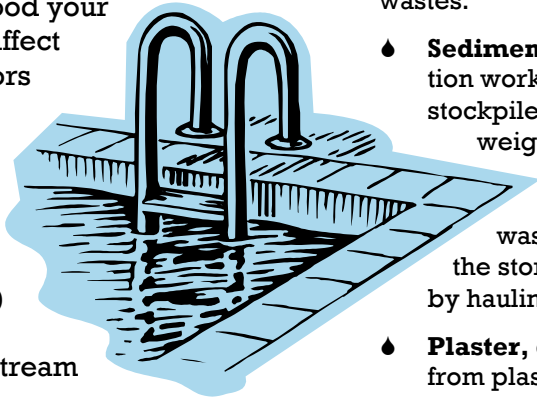
407 Fairway Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33801
863-834-3300
www.lakelandgov.net

Keep this Brochure with your Pool Maintenance Material.

PROPER DISCHARGE OF POOL AND SPA WATER

7 Things/ 7 Days/ pH 7

1. De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated, with the filter running, for at least 7 days, or contact your pool supply company for chlorine-countering chemicals to neutralize the water before draining.
2. Ensure that the pH of the pool water is close to the pH of the receiving water (usually close to pH 7, but should be tested first).
3. Remove any sediment, sand, and/or leaves from the water.
4. Discharge the water over a grassy area to slow it down and allow it to soak into the ground.
5. *Only* de-chlorinated water, free of algae, sand, and yard debris, etc., may be discharged.
6. Make sure you know where the discharged water will flow so that it does not flood your property or affect your neighbors property.
7. Discharge the water at a slow rate (over 24 hours is best) so it does not erode downstream of the pool.



Pool Construction and Repair

During pool construction, water may accumulate with the pool excavation. To avoid water accumulation, schedule pool construction work during the dry season (October through May). Scheduling work during the dry season will also help minimize tracking of mud from your back yard onto the street.

It is illegal to discharge sediment-polluted water from your pool excavation to a storm drain, waterway, or to the sanitary sewer.

Use one of the following options when dewatering:

- ◆ Pump water into a portable containment device and haul it to an approved disposal area.
- ◆ Pump water onto a vegetated area on the site for infiltration and filtration.

Managing Wastes

During pool construction, contain all waste material properly. Following the tips below will help you manage most common pool construction wastes:

- ◆ **Sediment (soil):** If soil from the pool excavation work is stockpiled on site, cover the stockpile with a tarp (use sand bags or other weighted objects to hold the tarp in place). Covering the stockpile will help keep soil from being blown or washed off site where it can end up in the storm drain system. Dispose of the soil by hauling it to an approved disposal area.
- ◆ **Plaster, grout, gunite etc:** Keep wastewater from plastering, grouting, guniting and other



operations associated with pool construction and repairs from entering storm drains.

For example:

- ◆ Discharge non-hazardous wastewater to a dirt or vegetated area so the wastewater can soak into the ground (obtain permission from the property owner and do not create nuisance conditions such as mosquito breeding habitat). The dirt or vegetated area must have the capacity to absorb all wastewater without any runoff.
- ◆ As a last resort, you may have to collect wastewater into a portable containment device, and then haul it to an approved disposal facility.
- ◆ Never wash out wheel barrows, tools, or associated containers near the street. Discharges of these materials to the storm drain are prohibited.
- ◆ Small amounts of solid wastes (such as dried up plaster or grout) can than be thrown in the trash.

**To report illicit discharges call the
Pollution Hotline
863-834-3300**

Cleaning pool filters

Don't clean pool filters where the debris or wastewater will go into a storm drain. If you are hosing off a filter with water, do so over a lawn, planter box, or other vegetated or dirt area that will absorb the wash water.