



## How to Properly Drain Your Swimming Pool

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contain high levels of chlorine. Discharging chlorinated pool or spa water into a storm drain, on the ground or in a creek can harm wildlife. Anything that goes into a storm drain flows directly into local surface waters without being treated. In addition, chlorinated water is considered an illicit (illegal) discharge. Per the Marion County Public Health Department code, a person may not discharge any substance to a surface water "...that would cause or contribute to a polluted condition of such waters..." All pool and spa water **must** be dechlorinated prior to discharging.

You can dispose of dechlorinated pool water by:

- **Discharging directly into the sanitary sewer or the combined sewer system**
  - The easiest way to dechlorinate your pool or spa is to let the water sit openly in the sun. Doing so will allow chlorine to evaporate naturally. You can buy a chlorine test kit at your local pool store or online.
  - Once water is dechlorinated, you can safely discharge water into the sanitary sewer system, such as a cleanout, sink or floor drain. However, failure to dechlorinate water prior to discharging could result in a fine. All water **must** be dechlorinated prior to discharging into the sanitary sewer system.
- **Discharging water on the ground in property**

If a sanitary sewer is not available, you may discharge water on your property after it has been dechlorinated. Prior to discharging, there should

- not be any detectable levels of chlorine. Even at low levels, chlorine is harmful to fish and other wildlife.
- Also, pool filter back-flush cannot not be discharged to a stream, ditch or storm sewer. It must be dechlorinated prior to disposal.
- Please be courteous to your neighbors. Often the volume of pool water causes temporary flooding of adjacent properties. City County Code Section 431-107 does not allow any water discharge directly onto public sidewalks or streets. Please discharge a minimum of 10 feet away from any property line, sidewalk or street at a rate slow enough not to cause a traffic hazard or property damage. In addition, the water should flow to a functional drainage ditch or storm pipe inlet and not pool beyond your property.