

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 ultimately to local streams are not authorized by local ordinance, and are hence prohibited by law. 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 Augusta Stormwater Management Ordinance, section (§) 5-1-8 states:

“It is unlawful for any person to throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge to any component of the municipal separate stormwater system...all matter of any nature excepting only such storm or surface water as herein authorized.”

In addition, codes § 5-3-4 and § 7-2-1 prohibit citizens from engaging in activities that constitute a nuisance, inconvenience, or annoyance to the public.

What is the Correct Way to Drain Your Pool?

You have two options when it comes to properly draining your pool, including:

1. 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.
2. Alternatively, pool water may be discharged to the storm sewer system, provided it is first dechlorinated to a concentration of less than 0.1 milligrams per liter using dechlorination tablets or solutions available at your pool supply store. Inexpensive and easy to use chlorine test kits are also available there.

To Prevent Back-ups

1. The safest flow rates are 12 to 15 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
2. 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.
3. Monitor the lowest-lying drains in your home. Any back-up will likely appear there first.
4. 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
Augusta Engineering Department
522 Greene Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901
706-821-1706***
