

Stormwater BMPs: Swimming Pool Maintenance



Make Pool Water **SAFE** as **RAIN** before you **DRAIN**

In Warren County, Ohio storm drains and yard drains lead directly to creeks and drinking water reservoirs with no treatment. Water conditioners, chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, stabilizers, salts and other chemicals used in pool and spa water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life, and disrupt natural balance within waterways.

Pool chemicals are prohibited by law from being discharged into storm drains or waterways.

Allowable discharges include dechlorinated pool water that has no trace of chemicals. Pool filter backwash or saltwater pool discharges are prohibited in storm drains and drainage channels leading to streams.



How to Properly Drain Pool/Spa Water

- Remove solids (e.g. debris, leaves or dirt) from the pool water.
- Before draining, let pool water sit for a week (7 days) with no addition of chemicals. The pH range should be between 6.5 and 8.0 and total residual chlorine or bromine needs to be less than 1.0mg/l (ppm) before discharging. Use a testing kit to verify levels.
- When pool water is free of all chemicals, drain pool water to landscaped areas, lawns or woods. Control the flow of the draining pool water to prevent soil erosion. Drain the pool slowly over a period of a few days to allow vegetation to absorb most of the water. You can also devise a pool drain "fountain" to spread water in your yard and avoid erosion.
- DO NOT drain swimming pool or spa water to your septic system as system failures may occur!

Learn more about water protecting practices you can do at home.

Visit the District's Website at <https://www.warrenswcd.com>

Storing and Disposal of Pool Chemicals

- Store all pool chemicals in labeled containers in a secure, dry storage area.
- NEVER hose spills into a storm drain. Sweep dry chemicals and use dry absorbent for liquid chemicals, then sweep. For small amounts, place in household trash.
- Chlorine containers: Rinse 3 times with pool water before recycling. Check container recycling codes and local recycling acceptability. If not acceptable for recycling, throw in household trash.
- Left over chemicals should be recycled.



Wait a week for chlorine to dissipate before pumping water out of pool.



What does WCSWCD do about Illicit Discharge?

The WCSWCD is regulated by a Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit granted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). As part of this permit the District is required to develop, implement, and enforce an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. Some of the ways the District addresses illicit discharges include:

- Engaging public through activities such as stream clean-up events and other educational outreach events.
- Monitoring construction sites.
- Labeling storm drains to prevent illegal dumping.
- Monitoring outfalls to locate problem areas and sources.
- Providing resources for implementation of best management practices such as buffers.



Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

320 E. Silver Street, Lebanon, OH 45036

Phone: 513-695-1337 ♦ Email: wcdswcd@gmail.com