

**This guide is designed to help you follow the rules for discharging pool water safely. Chemically treated pool water can be dangerous for our streams and lakes.**

# Draining Your Pool



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## Questions To Ask Before You Drain Your Pool

- Will the water stay in my yard or will it flow into a neighbor's yard or the street?
- Will it drain into a storm sewer, stream, ditch or other body of water?
- What are the chlorine or chloride and pH levels?
- Will the water pond in the yard?

## Standing Water

When disposing of pool water on your property, do so in a manner that will not cause the water to pond for a prolonged period. Standing water can be a breeding ground for insects or other nuisances like odors.

Flat, level ground is particularly prone to flooding, so you may need to move the drainage hose to different parts of the yard.

## Additional Information

Water from backwash filter systems are not allowed in the storm sewer system. If possible, this water should be directed to the sanitary sewer system, but is allowed to be drained into your yard if the water soaks into the ground and does not leave your property. Used pool filters should be placed in the trash.

# Residential Pool Water Disposal Guidelines

## DO NOT DRAIN POOL WATER INTO STREAMS OR STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Swimming pool and hot tub water contains many chemicals, including large amounts of chlorine, which harm streams and lakes. Treated pool water is especially harmful to aquatic life.

Releasing chlorinated pool water or backwash filter waste into a stream or storm drainage system is prohibited by County and State regulations. Storm sewers channel water directly into natural streams and other bodies of water with no treatment.



## Chlorine Pools

To drain chlorine pools, follow the steps below:

Discontinue the addition of chlorine for at least 7 days before you plan to drain the water. This will allow the chlorine to dissipate naturally. If discharging to the ground will result in the water flowing to a stream, ditch or storm sewer, wait two weeks to allow the chlorine to dissipate.

After a week, test the chlorine and pH of the water. If the residual chlorine is less than 0.1 ppm (mg/L) and the pH is between 7 and 8, the water is safe to drain.

Drain the water onto your own property. The water should not flow onto a neighbor's property, cause any nuisance conditions or erosion problems. Try to drain the water into a grassy area where it can soak into the ground.



## Salt Water Pools

To drain salt water pools, follow the steps below:

Discontinue the addition of salt.

Test the water for chlorine and pH. If the residual chlorine is less than 0.1 ppm (mg/L) and the pH is between 7 and 8, the water is safe to drain.

The water must be drained into a grassy area that can absorb all of the water. Do not allow the water to flow to trees or landscape beds. The water must stay on the property where the pool is located. All pool discharge and rinse water must soak into the ground.

Typical lawns can tolerate the residual salt content in the water if the flow is spread out and you thoroughly rinse the affected area to flush the salt through the soil.

The State of Kansas acute aquatic life water quality standard for chloride is 860 ppm (mg/L). Residual salt concentrations from pool water are usually closer to 3,000 ppm (mg/L).

**Chemical Standards BEFORE  
You Drain:**

**Residual Chlorine must be less  
than 0.1 ppm**

**pH must be between 7 and 8**