

# STARK STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District

Common Q & A Resources



**STARK**  
SOIL & WATER

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## Proper Discharge of Swimming Pool Water

In early summer and fall we are sometimes asked, "Can a swimming pool be drained into the yard or street?" The short answer, it depends. The longer answer, it still depends and see below.

Storm water systems (which includes ditches, catch basins, curb drains, and pipes) are designed to accept only rain and snow runoff. These systems don't treat water before discharging into creeks and rivers. Because chlorinated water can be toxic to fish and other aquatic animals and plants, swimming pool water must be de-chlorinated before being discharged into any storm water system.

The simplest method to de-chlorinate is to stop adding chlorine to your uncovered pool and wait a minimum of 48 hours. Sunlight naturally dissipates chlorine within a few days. It can also be reduced by adding sodium thiosulphate, which is available at most pool stores (always follow the directions). Monitor the chlorine level with a swimming pool chlorine test kit. When the test no longer picks up any detectable chlorine, it is safe to discharge the water. When discharging the water, allow it to flow over a grassy area at a slow rate to permit as much infiltration as possible.

### CHLORINATED POOL WATER:

This cannot be discharged into the storm water system per your community's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit and relevant ordinances. It can be discharged on private property as long as it stays on that property and doesn't drain to waters of the State or cause nuisance problems with neighbors (e.g. flooding a neighbor's yard with discharge).

### DE-CHLORINATED POOL WATER:

This can be discharged to the nearest storm water system based on your community's NPDES permit, but you community may still prohibit it. Check with your local zoning office first.

### SALT POOL WATER :

This cannot be discharged into the storm water system per your community's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit. You can discharge the salt water on your lawn but repeated discharges will cause salt accumulations. This will lead to soil infertility and an unsightly, patchy lawn. Salt water pools should be discharged to a sanitary sewer system or properly disposed by a licensed contractor.

The list of allowable non-storm water discharges under OhioEPA's water regulations can be found at:

[Ohio Administrative Code \(OAC\) 3745-39-03\(C\)\(2\)\(c\)\(iii\)](#)

[Ohio Administrative Code \(OAC\) 3745-39-04\(D\)\(2\)\(d\)\(ii\)\(a\)](#)

If you have any additional questions, contact OhioEPA's Division of Surface Water at 614-644-2001.