

CHLORINE

Good for Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs / Bad for Lakes and Rivers

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF CHLORINATED WATER

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contains high levels of chlorine, bromine, and copper. It is also very corrosive due to low pH levels and may contain organic matter. If you discharge untreated pool or spa water into the street or local waters, you can kill fish and aquatic life.

HOW CAN I GET RID OF CHLORINE?

Stop adding chlorine and leave the water exposed to the air for three to five days. The water will become naturally dechlorinated. You can also use de-chlorinating chemicals from a pool or spa supplier to remove the chlorine more quickly. Chlorine and pH test kits are available to test levels in water.

Streets Connect to Streams

Rain and melting snow wash pollutants off of rooftops, driveways, streets and lawns into local wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers via storm sewer systems and roadside ditches.

Keep chlorinated water out of our streets and out of our streams.

CAN POOL OR SPA WATER BE DISCHARGED TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM?

Chlorine, in small amounts, is typically not a problem for municipal water plants. If you can easily discharge your pool or spa water to your private sanitary drain, residential and small pool and spa owners may discharge to the sanitary sewer. Large pool owners should contact their city for approval, prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer.

CAN I DISCHARGE MY POOL OR SPA WATER INTO MY YARD?

Yes, but only if tests show that the water is dechlorinated (to less than 0.1 mg/L of chlorine) has a pH of 7-8, and is free of other debris. The water should be directed onto a vegetated surface so that it soaks into the ground. The water should not flow onto any other person's property or create nuisance conditions such as erosion or ponding for a prolonged period.

CAN TREATED POOL OR SPA WATER BE DISCHARGED TO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM?

Yes, but only if the water has been dechlorinated (to less than 0.1 mg/L of chlorine), has a pH range of 7-8, consists only of water, and is discharged in a way that does not cause nuisance conditions or erosion problems.

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To report storm water pollution, please call: (847) 546-8752.