

Swimming Pool Discharges

Be a Good Swimming Pool Neighbor!

Under certain conditions, draining swimming pools can cause fish kills and other harmful environmental impacts. Failure to follow appropriate procedures and to implement appropriate testing and other safeguards may constitute discharge of pollutants without a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit, could result in fish kills and other types of damage, and may cause the discharger to be subject to significant fines and to other civil and criminal liabilities.

Under most conditions (when proper environmental safeguards are carefully followed) New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will not require SPDES Permits for draining of swimming pools to the ground.

Discharging pool water directly to or within 250 ft. of a stream, pond, lake or wetland may be prohibited or require a SPDES permit.

Be Astute and Don't Pollute!

- As a general rule, a 10 day holding time (after the last chemical treatment) is usually adequate to dissipate chlorine prior to discharge.
- Pool water should be essentially free of chlorine (# 0.1 ppm total chlorine), algaecides, and other potential pollutants prior to discharge. Pollution Prevention Unit NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, 12th floor Albany, NY 12233-8010
- Bubbling, cascading or other forms of aeration will help to remove chlorine from the water.
- pH should be within a normal range (6 to 9). pH adjustment chemicals, instructions and test kits are available at any pool supply store.
- Pool discharges should be done slowly to prevent soil erosion, flooding, or damage

to adjacent properties (the recommended maximum discharge rate is 25 gal/min or less).

- Filter system backwash should be handled and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.
- When in doubt, test your pool water to ensure that it is safe prior to release or discharge.

Keep Our Water Safe and Clean!

Remember, it is up to each one of us to do our part to protect the environment, be a good neighbor, and to comply with the law.

For additional information regarding the responsible discharge of water from swimming pools and any other water permit requirements, contact the Division of Water at your NYSDEC Regional Office.

NYSDEC Regional Office Phone Numbers:

Region 1 (631) 444-0420 Region 2 (718) 482-6516

Region 3 (914) 332-1835 Region 4 (518) 367-2380

Region 5 (518) 623-3671 Region 6 (315) 793-2554

Region 7 (315) 426-7500 Region 8 (585) 226-5445

Region 9 (716) 851-7190

You can also contact the Pollution Prevention Unit (PPU) at 1-800-462-6553.

Visit our websites:

NYSDEC website: www.dec.state.ny.us/

PPU website: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ppu

Help Protect the Environment!

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

George E. Pataki, Governor Denise M. Sheehan, Commissioner