

Swimming Pool Maintenance for Water Quality Protection

When a swimming pool is drained for cleaning or maintenance, the chemicals in the water can be toxic to plants and animals in nearby lakes, streams, and wetlands. Before draining your pool water, follow these simple guidelines to protect local water resources.

- Use a test kit to check the water quality. Allow the pool water to sit for several days after the last addition of chlorine or bromine or wait until the levels are below 0.1 mg/l. The pH of the pool water must be between 6.5 and 8.5.
- Do not discharge pool water if algaecides such as copper or silver have recently been used.
- Allow time for suspended particles to settle. The settled material at the bottom of the pool should not be discharged to the environment. When the filter system is cleaned, dispose of the sludge as solid waste.
- Discharge the pool water over a vegetated land to promote soil infiltration and control the flow to minimize erosion. Avoid draining the pool during or after a rainstorm when the ground is saturated.
- Store all swimming pool chemicals in a tight container to prevent leaks and spills and avoid exposure to stormwater.

Check with your municipal office for additional guidelines. Additional information about swimming pool maintenance is also available at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm>

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