



Swimming Pool/Spa Water Disposal Options

In order to comply with Federal requirements associated with the Clean Water Act, the Town of Morrisville has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit. Also known as a NPDES Phase II permit, the permit allows the town to operate and maintain the municipal storm sewer system. Under the town's permit and section 7.6 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), the town prohibits any substance other than stormwater (rain & snow melt) from entering the storm sewer system. The storm sewer system is not treated like the sanitary system, and often flows directly to the nearest stream. Substances other than stormwater can degrade the stream and can impair the health of flora and fauna, locally and downstream. Furthermore, the stream may lead to a drinking water source for communities downstream. An illicit discharge occurs when a substance other than stormwater is purposefully placed in the storm sewer. An illicit discharge can lead to civil penalties or potentially a misdemeanor charge.

As warm weather approaches and swimming pool/spa maintenance activities begin, it is important to remember that pool water is not stormwater and should not be discharged to the storm sewer. Whether a chlorine pool or saline pool, the water contains high concentrations of chemicals that adversely affect stream ecosystems. Chlorine is used in standard pools as a disinfectant and has the same killing properties within a stream. Saline pool discharge has high concentrations of salts and dissolved solids that affect the ability of aquatic life to maintain the proper balance of water and salts within the organism. It is illegal to discharge chlorinated filter backwash, chlorinated pool water, or saltwater into any storm sewer or street that drains to a storm sewer inlet. Keep in mind that anything entering the storm sewer flows to the nearest stream. Instead of discharging pool water to the storm sewer, there are safe and environmental friendly ways to dispose of pool water:

1. To a vegetated area
 - a. The area should be on the pool owner's property and not affect an adjacent property.
 - b. Be sure the area is large enough to contain the discharge without creating runoff.
 - c. Spread the discharge out to prevent puddles or erosive gullies forming.
 - d. The pool water must be free from chemicals such as algaecides, acids used to clean the pool, and other toxic substances.
 - e. Be mindful that the high concentrations of salts may adversely affect the vegetation.
2. To the sanitary sewer
 - a. The pool owner must obtain approval from the Town of Cary Utilities Department.

- b. The discharge should be directed from the pool to the nearest sanitary drain inside your house. If possible, discharge the water at a non-peak time such as evenings after 8 pm or weekends after 10 am.
- c. The pool owner must prevent soil, sediment, rock, debris or other solid material from discharging to the sanitary sewer.

Improper swimming pool maintenance can adversely affect local streams and downstream receiving bodies. Let's all do our part to protect the waters of our community by conducting appropriate pool installation and maintenance. Please keep this information in mind when installing or maintaining a pool. For more information or further questions contact the Town of Morrisville Engineering Department or the Stormwater Hotline at 919-463-SOAK.