



# DRAINING A POOL

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At the end of the season, it's time to drain your pool. But where do you put all that water? This factsheet describes what to do with your pool water and outlines good pool maintenance practices to use in order to protect local water quality and enhance quality of life.



## Did You Know?

- Copper is an algaecide used in pools, spas, and fountains and copper piping is commonly used in pool plumbing. Copper is a threat to aquatic wildlife.
- Draining pools and spas to storm drains can pollute waterways with copper, chlorine, sediments, and other chemicals. Storm drains flow directly to waterways without pre-treatment.
- The maximum pump rate is 50 gallons per minute (GPM). This will help prevent treatment plant overload and sewer back-up into your house.

## Draining Your Pool

- Don't drain into a street, gutter, or storm drain. Use a pool test kit to measure the chlorine level prior to draining to make sure levels are less than 0.1 mg/l free chlorine. This period is usually 2 weeks after you stop adding pool chemicals.
- If possible, drain your pool water to your sanitary sewer cleanout on your property. Look for a small circular pipe with a raised square on it or a pipe with a concrete/metal cover that says 'SEWER' or 'C.O.' on it. If you have a septic system or are not connected to public sewer, use one of the other discharge guidelines in this brochure.
- When releasing the water on-site, do so in a manner that water will not flow off your own property or into a stream or storm sewer. Also be sure to keep the flow below the 50 GPM maximum pump rate. If your pool water is being discharged with chlorine still present and/or leaving your property and impacting a neighboring property, you may be susceptible to enforcement or fines from East Hempfield Township and/or PA DEP.
- If you aren't able to drain your pool into a sanitary sewer cleanout, or can safely discharge your water on your own property without impacting a neighboring property or the MS4 system, contact a local pool or water company to drain your pool.

If you have any questions regarding pool discharges, please contact East Hempfield Township at 717-898-3100.