

# Proper Discharge of Swimming Pool Water

Pool owners and operators can help protect our local streams and rivers by following these guidelines for draining (discharging) swimming pool water.

The City of Shelbyville prohibits the discharge of swimming pool water into public space.

Chlorinated swimming pool water may not be discharged into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) or storm drain. The MS4 conveys water directly to rivers and streams, and chlorinated water can kill aquatic life. The penalty for a first offense is up to \$1,000, and doubles for each subsequent offense. Please select one of the following two options below for discharging swimming pool water properly.

There are three options for draining your swimming pool. Please note that whichever method you choose, ***you must dechlorinate the water before draining occurs***. Here's how:

Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 7-14 days without adding any chlorine

Chemical dechlorination additive - contact your local pool store for options. Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.

## **Option 1: Your Lawn – the preferred discharge method**

Drain dechlorinated water to a vegetated area (i.e. grass lawn, garden, etc.) or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground if, and only if..

- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain)
- You do not cause harm to the environment

## **Option 2: The sanitary sewer**

Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer. Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer that can be used once the pool water has been dechlorinated.

Please follow these steps:

- Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub.
- Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps no more than 20 gallons per minute.
- Pump the water from the pool or spa to the cleanout or indoor drain.
- Replace all cleanout covers when finished

***DO NOT drain swimming pool or spa water to your SEPTIC SYSTEM as it may cause system failure.***