



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BUILDING AND CODES DEPARTMENT**
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Guidelines for Draining your Pool and Spa

You should know:

- **The chemicals that are used to treat the water in pools and spas are now considered pollutants by TDEC and the EPA.**
- High levels of chlorine and other chemicals can kill wildlife, fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals
- A saltwater swimming pool system uses salt to make chlorine. The chemicals and salt in saltwater pools can kill wildlife, fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals.
- Stormwater drainage systems (curb inlets and catch basins in streets and ditches, etc.) drain rain water directly into creeks and streams.
- **Discharging pool or spa water to the environment or to the storm drain system is a violation of County stormwater regulations (Resolution 08-1-2)**

The following guidelines are recommended to limit discharges that may pollute creeks, stream and rivers.

Whenever possible, please drain pools, spas, filter backwash and pool wastewater down a drain leading to a sanitary sewer.

If it is not possible to drain to a sanitary sewer, you may drain to a grassy area if you follow the following guidelines:

- De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated for 7-10 days before you drain the pool/spa.
- Drain the water directly onto the grass in your yard. Be a good neighbor and allow the water to only drain onto your property so that it does not cause erosion or flooding on your neighbor's property.
- Drain the water slowly to allow it to be absorbed into the ground and to prevent erosion and ponding. Standing water can lead to mosquito problems in as little as 48 – 72 hours, and may be a stormwater regulation violation.
- Draining salty water onto grass and landscaping can damage plants and soil due to the high salt content.

Together we can keep our creeks and streams clean and healthy. Remember:

- Drain pools into the sanitary sewer whenever possible.
- Drain only de-chlorinated water onto grassy areas. Drain the water slowly.
- Never drain pool or spa water directly into street drains or drainage ditches – they lead directly to our creeks streams and rivers.

Questions concerning pool and spa guidelines should be directed to the Montgomery County Building and Codes Department, Stormwater Section

