

NEGLECTED/DERELICT POOLS: Hire a sanitary disposal service to pump and dispose of water contaminated with algae, debris and/or other materials. Never discharge this water to the street or surface waters.

SALTWATER POOLS: High concentrations of salts can kill vegetation. A pump truck may be needed to draw down large volumes of water. Small amounts can likely be diluted and be put on a lawn without killing plants, but never directed to the street or into ditches, stormwater ponds or storm sewers.

BACKWASH PIPES: Never connect to the storm drainage system/conveyances, stormwater ponds or directed to canals, ditches, etc. These are illicit connections and prohibited under County ordinances.

POOL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE: Store pool chemicals in a clean, dry and covered area to prevent contact with storm water. Spills should be cleaned immediately per the manufacturer recommendations. When constructing new pools, re-surfacing pools, or repairing areas of concrete and masonry, never discharge waste materials to the ground, surface waters or the stormwater system. Store construction materials on site, away from stormwater conveyances and install proper construction best management practices, such as silt fence or inlet protection, to contain soil and prevent it from leaving the site.

SWIMMING POOL OR SPA WATER MAY NOT BE DRAINED TO THE SANITARY SEWER WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE UTILITY. NEVER DRAIN WATER TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM — THIS MAY CAUSE SYSTEM FAILURE.

CALL 311 TO REPORT ILLEGAL DISCHARGES TO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM.

For more information on draining pools and spas and stormwater pollution prevention, contact:
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
407-836-1400 www.ocfl.net/epd



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Pools and spas use various chemicals, including chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners and stabilizers. The filters might use diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber or sand. All areas of Orange County lie within one of 12 watersheds or drainage basins, and improper disposal of wastewater from swimming pool and spa maintenance can reduce water quality and cause harm to aquatic life in our rivers, lakes and streams.



MAINTAINING YOUR POOL AND SPA



**Environmental
Protection
Division**

ORANGE COUNTY WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS

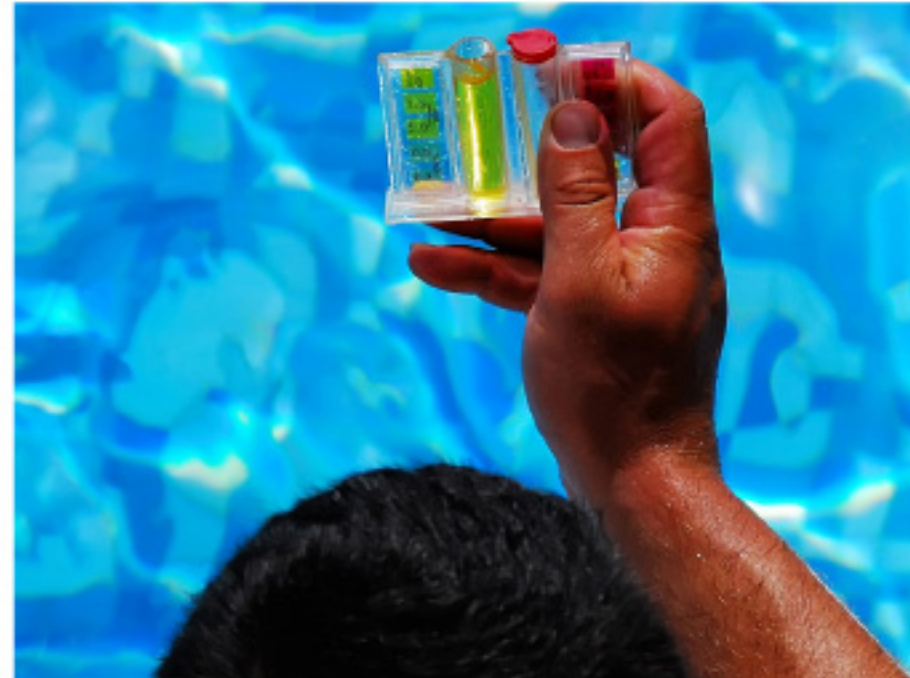
Orange County's Water Quality Ordinance, Chapter 15, Article IV, Section 115(a) and (b), and Orange County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) (FLS000011), are in place to protect the water quality of the lakes, streams and wetlands that receive stormwater runoff from our drainage system (also known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)). Orange County's ordinance prohibits the discharge of anything into the storm drainage system that is not composed entirely of uncontaminated storm water. This means that you cannot drain chlorinated water, salinated water, or filter backwash from your swimming pools or spas to the stormwater system, which includes components such as streets, gutters, inlets, ditches and stormwater ponds.



Remember, only rain down the storm drain!

CHLORINATED POOLS AND SPAS

Properly drain or backwash as follows:



STEP 1 ENSURE DISCHARGE WATER IS CHLORINE-FREE & CONTAMINANT-FREE:

- Use your pool test kit to check chlorine level;
If chlorine level is 0.01 mg/L or less, you are ready to begin draining.
If chlorine level is NOT zero, wait at least 48 hours and test again. You may use a chemical dechlorinating additive if you choose.
- Check to ensure that the water is clear and free of debris and algae.
- The pH of your discharge must be between 6.5 and 8.0.
- Do not discharge immediately after the application of algaecides. Always follow manufacturer instructions.

STEP 2 KEEP YOUR DISCHARGE WATER ON YOUR PROPERTY:

- Pump water at a low rate to soil to prevent erosion.
- Keep discharges out of neighbors' yards, water bodies or streets.



STEP 3 MANAGE FILTER MEDIA PROPERLY:

- Do not rinse filters on pavement (including driveways), into storm drains, ponds, etc.
- Dispose of excess materials in the trash.
- Diatomaceous earth (DE) powder and sand media;
DE powder and sand media must never reach waterways or water bodies. Collect **DE powder** for disposal as solid waste or rinse filters over a vegetated area.

