

More Pollution Control Practices

- Use fertilizers, pesticides sparingly or not at all.
- Landscape your yard with bushes, trees and mulched beds to produce less runoff.
- Compost or recycle yard waste so it stays out of storm drains. Do not dump yard waste in streams.
- Inspect and repair your septic system regularly.
- Wash cars on a grassy area with phosphorus-free detergents or use a car wash that recycles wash water.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways and dispose of sweepings in the trash.
- Dispose of paint, motor oil, cleaning products in leak proof containers and put them in the trash so liquids do not leak from garbage cans.
- Pet waste and cat litter should be picked up and disposed of in the trash.
- Dispose of car fluids in leak-proof containers and put them in the trash or take them to an approved recycling facility.

Who can help in my area?

Arnold Public Works	636-282-2386
Byrnes Mill	636-677-7727
Crystal City	636-937-4614
De Soto	636-586-2996
Festus Public Works	636-937-6646
Hillsboro	636-797-3334
Herculaneum	636-475-4447
Jefferson County	636-797-6228
Pevely	636-475-4452

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
314-416-2960 or 314-340-5900

Missouri Department of Conservation
636-441-4554



Promoting Better Neighborhoods

County of Jefferson

*Pollution Control Practices
Draining Your Swimming
Pool Safely*

Stormwater Management Division
PO Box 100 ▪ Hillsboro MO 63050

Phone: 636-797-6228 FAX: 636-797-6227
Email: stormwater@jeffcomo.org

Can Swimming Pool Discharge Be A Source of Water Pollution?

Yes. In fact it can be toxic. Chlorine is a highly toxic gas. It is, therefore, important that you know what can be done to keep pool water drainage from entering our waterways. Pollution control is a responsibility that everyone shares.

How Swimming Pool Discharge Hurts Our Streams

Chlorinated water from swimming pools that has been discharged into a storm drain, street or gutter ends up in a stream or river where it produces by-products (organochlorines and dioxines) that are highly toxic and carcinogenic.

Once in the stream, these by-products combine with other organic materials to form extremely toxic organic chemicals. The water becomes polluted; the fish become contaminated and everything that eats the fish, including humans, ingests these dioxins and other toxic chemicals. They are then held in the fatty tissues of the body.

These highly toxic chemicals kill some species of just hatched fish and makes it hard for other aquatic life to breathe. The streams begin to smell because these dioxins and toxic chemicals cause existing plant life in the streams to die. Since these dioxins do not break down, they remain in our waterways—the waterways we use for swimming and sports recreation.

What You Can Do

Please follow the Pollution Prevention Practices listed on the next page when draining your swimming pool or hot tub to ensure you have done your part to keep our waterways healthy and clean.



Pollution Prevention Practices For Swimming Pool Discharges

Never drain pool or hot tub water directly into a body of water (lake, stream, wetland, etc.)

The best option is to discharge chlorinated water over landscaping **when the following provisions are met:**

- Shut off the chlorination system or stop adding chlorine 10 days before draining pool water. Chlorine levels in discharge and filter backwash should be lower than 1.0 mg/Liter. (If you are using a product like Baquacil, your pool should be safe to drain without this 10-day wait.)
- If allowing pool water to sit is not possible, add sodium bisulfate in the amount suggested on the label. Aerate discharge water to add dissolved oxygen.
- Make sure the pH level is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- If your pool contains algae or a black film, collect the algae and flush down the toilet. Do not put it in a creek, lake or river because algae is a potential pollutant.
- If your pool is cleaned through an acid cleaning or by water pressure, make sure pH levels are normal before draining the water. Filter out any paint chips that may break away.
- Direct pool water and backwash over grassy or landscaped areas to help filter discharge before it reaches a storm sewer. Drain pool water where it will not flow directly into a street, gutter, sanitary sewer system, or someone else's property.
- Pool discharges should be handled in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions such as odors and mosquito-breeding conditions.