

# SWIMMING POOLS & HOT TUBS DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

*Residential*

**To protect the environment, the following practices apply to water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs.**

Discharging chlorinated pool/hot tub water into the storm sewers or directly into surface water is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Just as the chlorine is so effective at killing the bacteria and algae in pools and hot tubs it can also kill the natural aquatic life in the surface water in and around Lake Winnebago and the Fox River. This is why discharging chlorinated water is deemed an illicit discharge.

## **How to drain your pool or hot tub:**

- Prior to irrigating or disposing of the water, shut off the chlorination system, if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
- Let the water in the pool or hot tub “sit” for at least one week to reduce the chlorine or bromine level until it is undetectable and temperature is at air temperature.
- Bubbling, cascading or other forms of aeration will help to remove chlorine from the water.
- pH should be within a normal range (6 to 9).
- Measure the pH. It should fall within a range of 6.5 – 8.5 prior to discharge. Discharge water should not be cloudy or discolored-this typically indicates a pH imbalance.
- It is recommended that discharge water be directed to grass and/or landscaping.
- If irrigation on site is not possible, water may be discharged off the owner’s property-provided it is directed through a grassed surface prior to entering a curblin gutter or a paved street.
- Discharges may **not** run onto a neighbor’s property.
- **Do not fertilize** prior to discharging pool water.
- As the water is discharging, it **must be monitored to ensure that it does not cause any erosion or flooding**. Erosion is most likely to occur at houses that discharge to a steep slope.
- Discharge the water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions) due to ponding of water for a prolonged period.
- If a pool or hot tub has been acid washed, the water may **not** be discharged off the pool/hot tub owner’s property.
- Water from back flushing pool filters should **not** be discharged to a stream, ditch, or storm sewer. Back flush from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

**Reminder for Owners:**

- All pools of 67,000 gallons or larger require a permit issued by the DNR. WPDES Permit No. WI-0046523-4 covers swimming pool and hot tub regulations. To obtain this permit, contact the local WDNR office located at 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, 920-662-5110. Please contact the DNR with any questions regarding discharge permitting.
- The City of Appleton requires permits for pools and hot tubs. See our website [www.appleton.org](http://www.appleton.org) or call the Inspection Division of Public Works at 832-6411 between the hours of 8:00 - 9:30 am and 12:30 – 1:30 pm to speak with an inspector regarding specific requirements. The office is located at 100 North Appleton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor Public Works.