

# Swimming Pools and Spas Discharge Requirements



## DID YOU KNOW?

Discharging chlorinated pool/spa 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 your pool or spa, it can also kill the natural plants, animals, fungi, etc. in the surface water in and around your residence. This is why discharging chlorinated water is deemed an illicit discharge.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 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 spa “sit” for a 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.
- 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 on a bluff that discharge to the rear yard, down the 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 spa has been acid washed, the water may **not** be discharged off the pool/spa owner’s property.
- Water from backflushing pool filters should **not** be discharged to a stream, ditch, or storm sewer. Backflush from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer or on-site septic tank and drainfield system.

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### Reminders for Owners:

All pools of 67,000 gallons or larger must be monitored for the parameter, frequency and type of ground and surface water discharges to satisfy the WPDES Permit No. WI-004652304 which covers swimming pool and spa regulations. To obtain this permit, contact your local WDNR office or WDNR website ([www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)).



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# Vehicle Maintenance

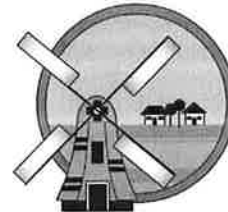
## Best Management Practices for the Auto Owner



Did you know each year in the United States, an estimated 180 million gallons of used oil are disposed of improperly? That's sixteen times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez! Improper disposal of auto fluids included dripping, spilling, or pouring them onto the ground. Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes!

Proper use and disposal of auto fluids is an easy way to prevent stormwater pollution and protect our lakes and streams.

- Drain fluid into a drain pan
- Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container
- Recycle your oil filter
- Poke holes the filter and let it drain into your oil pan for several hours first
- Dispose of radiator fluid properly
- Do not flush your radiator where fluids may flow into a street, gutter or storm drain
- Use plastic tarps and drip pans when your car is leaking and you are working on it
- Fix leaks as soon as possible
- Use sawdust or cat litter to soak up spills
- For small spills, sweep the material up, bag it and put it in the trash
- For large spills, take the material to a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal center or collection day (visit [www.uwex.edu/erc/hazwste.html](http://www.uwex.edu/erc/hazwste.html) for a list of Household Hazardous Waste facilities and programs)
- Do not drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain
- Do not mix coolant with any other auto fluids. They are not recyclable when mixed
- Do not hose down your work area
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water or discharges it directly to the sewer for treatment
- Wash your car on a lawn, gravel driveway, or area where soapy water will not run into a street or storm drain
- Use Soapy water sparingly if you must wash your car at home - even biodegradable soap is toxic to wildlife
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done
- Use paper towels to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing
- Choose a work area that is easy to clean up
- Do not use spray on wheel cleaners or rinse tires off if rinsewater will flow into the street or storm drain



Modified from the City of Monterey Public Works—Stormwater Management Program



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