



SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

Easttown Township, in accordance with Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and the Pennsylvania D.E.P. NPDES MS4 Permit, herein requests that all individual swimming pool owners and pool contractors (construction and/or maintenance) act in accordance with the following D.E.P. guidelines:

The discharge of any sewage or industrial waste, including swimming pool water to a water of the Commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law, the Act of June 22, 1937 P.L. 1987, as amended.

It has been the Department's policy not to require permits for discharges from single residence pools **provided the guidelines outlined below are followed.**

These guidelines shall not be construed so as to waive or impair any rights of the Department of Environmental Protection to prosecute the property (pool) owner and/or pool company for any stream damage that occurs as a result of the discharge. Penalties would be assessed under the provisions of the Clean Streams Law.

Pool Guidelines:

A. Disposal of water:

1. The Easttown Municipal Authority does NOT grant permission for the discharging of pool backwash water, neutralized pool cleaning wastewater, or standing water into the sanitary sewer system. Care should be taken in making sure any discharge is NOT to a storm sewer which would discharge to a stream. Since sanitary sewers are not available, the water should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

B. Discharge of water:

1. Water should be pumped over a grassy area to allow absorption, filtration, and aeration of water. The discharge should be at a rate, which prevents erosion and optimizes infiltration. In no event shall pool waters be directly discharged to waters of the Commonwealth.
 - a. Standing water or accumulated rain and/or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top so as not to disturb settled solids. Solids on the pool bottom should not be discharged. Following pump down of water, solids should be cleaned out manually. The discharge should not raise instream temperatures by more than 2° F. in any one-hour period or a total of 5° F. The pH should be between 6 and 9 standard units and total chlorine residual should be 0.0 mg/1.
 - b. Cleaning wastewaters containing muriatic acid or chlorine that is used in cleaning pool surfaces needs to be treated prior to discharge. Muriatic acid wastewater and chlorine rinse water should be neutralized to a pH between 6 and 9 standard units. Chlorine rinses should stand for a period of days to allow chlorine degradation prior to discharge. Total chlorine residual of the wastewater discharge should be less than 0.5 mg/1. Temperature should be monitored as above (standing water).
 - c. Filter backwash water during normal pool operation must be as a sufficiently low volume that all water infiltrates to the ground. Backwash water discharged to a stream or storm sewer is NOT PERMITTED.

If you have any questions, please contact Easttown Township (610-687-3000) or the DEP Bureau of Water Management (484-250-5970).