



Clean Water begins at home!

Pool & Spa

Even though we swim in it, pool water can still be harmful to streams and must be kept out of storm drains. Pool water is treated to kill microbes that can make us sick, but the nutrients, pH, and chlorine in these treatments can adversely affect fish and aquatic wildlife.

Here's how to ensure the cleanliness of your pool and protect the environment:

- Pool and spa water must be dechlorinated before emptying into a ditch, on the ground, or into the storm drainage system. Contact your pool chemical supplier for the neutralizing chemicals you'll need.
- Enzyme-based maintenance and cleaning products that have less impact on the environment are available at many pool and spa product retailers - ask your supplier about environmentally friendly products.
- When discharging, the rate of flow into a ditch or drainage system must be regulated so erosion, surcharging, or flooding doesn't result. Water discharged on the ground must not cross property lines or produce runoff. (You may be able to discharge pool



water to the sanitary sewer if the pre-treatment unit of your sewer utility approves it.)

- If the pool or spa water cannot be dechlorinated, it must be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Your local sewer agency must be notified prior to draining so it is aware of the volume of discharge and the potential effects of chlorine level. A pool service company can help you determine the frequency of cleaning and backwash of filters.



- Alternatively, you can hire a professional pool service company to collect all pool water for proper disposal. (Be sure to ask them where they'll dispose of it and the kinds of permits they have to do so.)
- Diatomaceous earth used in pool filters should not be discharged into surface waters, on the ground, or into storm drainage or septic systems. Dry it out as much as possible, put it in a plastic bag, and then dispose of it in the garbage.
- Dispose of old chlorine and pool chemicals at a hazardous waste facility. Never put leftover dry chlorine in the garbage - if it mixes with water, deadly gases or explosions may result, which can cause serious injuries.

Visit www.RecyclingA-Z.com for disposal information.



For more information, please call the Clark County Clean Water Division at (360) 397-2121 or visit www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater.



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.