

## What do I do with filter and back wash waste?

Wastes from pool filters and back wash systems are not allowed in the storm sewer system. Backwash water needs to be directed to the sanitary sewer. Pool filters can be placed with your regular garbage.



## Steets connect to streams

Rain and melting snow wash pollutants off of rooftops, driveways, streets and lawns and into local wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers via storm sewer systems and roadside ditches. Keep chlorinated water out of our streets and out of our streams.



**To report storm water pollution in your community please call:**

**or make an on-line report at:**

## Other ways to keep our water clean:

1. Fertilize lightly, and use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.
2. Mow high and let it lie. Keep leaves and grass clippings in your yard and out of the street.
3. Use a car wash instead of your driveway to keep dirt, oil and soap out of the storm drain.
4. Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in the trash.
5. Fix your car's leaks and use care when fueling to avoid spills.
6. Take paints, solvents, and cleaners to a hazardous waste facility.
7. Create a beautiful, low-maintenance yard that helps to keep our water clean. Go to [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org) to learn more.

## CHLORINE

**Good** for Swimming Pools and Spas

**Bad** for Lakes and Rivers



*How to safely dispose of chlorinated water*

## Why should I be concerned?

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs (spas) often contains high levels of chlorine, bromine, and copper. It is also very corrosive due to low pH levels and may contain organic matter. If you discharge untreated pool or spa water into the street or local waters, you can kill fish and aquatic life.

**It is illegal to discharge chlorinated water to a municipal storm sewer system!**



## How can I get rid of chlorine?

Stop adding chlorine and leave the water exposed to the air for three to five days. The water will become naturally dechlorinated.

You can also use de-chlorinating chemicals from a pool or spa supplier to remove the chlorine more quickly. Chlorine and pH test kits are available to test levels in water.



## Can I discharge my pool or spa water into my yard?

Yes, but only if tests show that the water is de-chlorinated (to less than 0.1 mg/L of chlorine) has a pH of 7-8, and is free of other debris.

The water should be directed onto a vegetated surface so that it soaks into the ground. The water should not flow onto any other person's property or create nuisance conditions such as erosion or ponding for a prolonged period.



## Can treated pool or spa water be discharged to the storm sewer system?

Yes, but only if the water has been dechlorinated (to less than 0.1 mg/L of chlorine), has a pH range of 7-8, consists only of water, and is discharged in a way that does not cause nuisance conditions or erosion problems.



## Can pool or spa water be discharged to the sanitary sewer system?

Chlorine, in small amounts, is typically not a problem for municipal water plants. If you can easily discharge your pool or spa water to your private sanitary drain, residential and small pool and spa owners may discharge to the sanitary sewer.

Large pool owners should contact their city for approval, prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer.

