

GUIDELINES FOR DRAINING SWIMMING POOLS

Chlorinated water discharged to surface water (wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers, etc.), roadways or storm sewers has an adverse impact on local water quality. High concentrations of chlorine, which are present in swimming pools, are toxic to wildlife and fish. When draining your pool for the late fall/ early winter, please follow one of the following measures:

- De-chlorinate the water in the pool prior to draining. This can be done through mechanical or chemical means. These types of products are readily available at local stores. Or,
- Drain the pool over a period of several days across your lawn following the additional guidelines below:
 1. Allow pool water to sit for at least 2 days while receiving a reasonable amount of sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine. Test the chlorine level after 2 days to ensure that safe levels are met (below 0.1 mg/l).
 2. Direct discharge the pool across your lawn, not down your driveway or into nearby storm sewer inlets. Our storm sewer system leads directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.

Thank you for doing your part to help promote cleaner wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers.

These recommendations are based on guidance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. For additional information, please visit www.epa.state.il.us/water