POOL AND SPA DRAINAGE

Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is **not treated or cleaned** before entering our waterways and should never contain any pollutants. Many pools and spas are plumbed to drain directly to the sanitary sewer. If yours is not, you must take necessary steps before draining to landscaped areas or into the storm drain.

While the focus of this brochure is pools and spas, these requirements also apply to water features and fountains.

Who is H_2OC?

H_2OC is YOU. H_2OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). Clean and healthy beaches, creeks, rivers, bays, wetlands, and ocean are important to Orange County. H_2OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

Join Us

Visit **h2oc.org** to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources.

Contact

24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline:
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

24-hour Reporting Website:
myOCeServices.ocgov.com

For emergencies, dial 911

PROPER MAINTENANCE OF POOLS & SPAS

TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

H_2OC®
STORMWATER PROGRAM

PROPER DISPOSAL

When you cannot dispose of pool and spa water in the sanitary sewer, the release of dechlorinated pool and spa water to a landscaped area or in the storm drain system is allowed only if these parameters are met:

- ☑ Some cities may have ordinances that do not allow pool water disposal into a storm drain. Find your city's stormwater page here: h2oc.org/cities to check regulations.
- ☑ pH is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- ☑ Residual chlorine does not exceed 0.1 mg/L (parts per million).
- ☑ Water is clean and clear, free of any unusual coloration, dirt, or algae.
- ☑ There is no discharge of filter media or acid cleaning wastes.

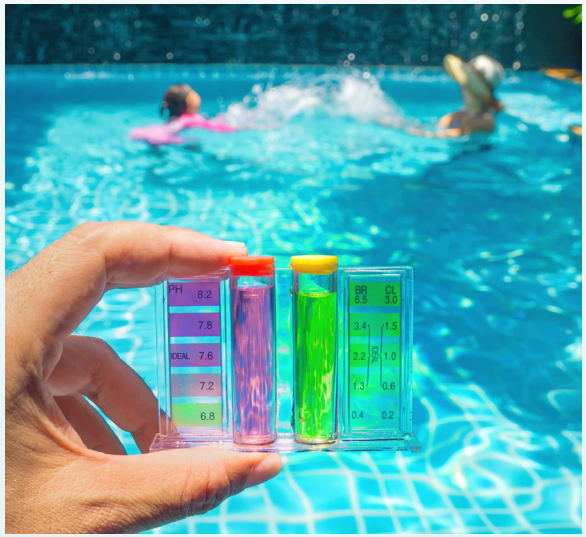
Saltwater pools must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, landscaped areas, or other pervious surfaces that can accommodate the volume of water. Alternatively, they can be discharged directly to a naturally saline body of water.

Disposal Process

- When possible, discharge all water to the sanitary sewer.
- Monitor the drain hose to prevent leakage.
- Remove trash and debris in the flow path between the pool or spa and storm drain.
- Monitor the rate of flow to ensure that draining the pool or spa does not cause erosion or flooding.

PROPER MAINTENANCE

- To prevent vectors and algae do not allow dechlorinated water to stand for more than 72 hours.
- Clean your pool regularly, maintain consistent and adequate chlorine or sodium bromide levels, monitor pH levels, and maintain your filtration and circulation system.
- Rinse pool filters and diatomaceous earth filters in landscaped areas where water and debris can readily soak into the soil.
- When draining pools or rinsing filters to a landscaped area, cover any landscape drains to prevent water from reaching the storm drain system.
- Used diatomaceous earth should be tossed in with solid garbage. It should never be discharged into storm drains or any place where it may wash into streams, rivers, or the ocean.
- Store chemicals indoors.



HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE STANDARDS

You can find out how much chlorine is in your water by using a pool testing kit. Before discharging, reduce chlorine to 0.1 mg/L by discontinuing its use for a few days, or by using dechlorinating chemicals purchased from a local pool supply company. Always follow the instructions that come with any products you use.

DOING YOUR PART

By following these requirements, you will make a significant contribution towards keeping pollutants out of Orange County's waterways. You can help protect organisms that are sensitive to pool chemicals and maintain the health of our environment.