

## DEP Reminds Pool Owners to Handle Waste Water Responsibly

Harrisburg, PA – In an effort to help protect stream health and aquatic life, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would like to remind private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, how to properly close their swimming pools for the season.

Discharged pool water and waters containing chlorine or other chemicals can be detrimental to aquatic life if not handled responsibly. It is extremely important that these waters are handled correctly. Pool waters must not be discharged to any storm sewer or land in which a storm sewer is accessible. Runoff can cause fish kills and unsafe aquatic conditions.

“Pool owners and professional pool cleaners need to dispose of old water appropriately and conscientiously,” said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Most of all, we need to make sure the wastewater is going into the sanitary sewer, where it may be allowed – and not into our storm sewers where it could harm aquatic life.”

When draining a swimming pool this year, make sure to protect Pennsylvania by following these tips:

- Pool water may be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system ONLY with municipal permission.
- Never dispose of pool water through a storm sewer, which will discharge to a stream.
- If lowering the water level of the pool, let it drain to a lawn to prevent it from running off into a storm sewer.
- If a sanitary sewer system is not available, water may be used for irrigation if it does not run off the property or into a storm sewer.

The discharge of swimming pool water to any waters of the commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law. Property owners and pool companies that violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages.




**Did you know? Chlorine is harmful to aquatic life!**

*When you drain your swimming pool this year, make sure to #ProtectPennsylvania*

**TIPS FOR SWIMMING POOL DRAINAGE:**

- If the municipal authority grants permission, pool water may be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system.
- If a sanitary sewer is not available, the water can be used for irrigation provided it does not run off the property or into a storm sewer.
- If you're lowering the level of your pool, let it drain on your lawn to prevent it from running off into the storm drain.
- Never dispose of pool water through a storm sewer, which would discharge into a stream.

For more tips and guidelines, search "pool" at [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov).

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