



POOL DRAINAGE REQUIREMENTS

Swimming pool discharges can be a source of stormwater system imbalance and is considered an illicit discharge. Chlorine and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can harm the aquatic life and plants in the detention pond waters. Even at low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life. To help protect Florida's environment, the following best management practices should be followed when draining swimming pools or discharging filter backwash into the environment.

BEFORE DRAINING YOUR POOL

- Only drain your pool when necessary. Avoid draining/backwashing your pool during periods of drought and during significant rainfall events. Do not drain your pool when watering restrictions are in place.
- Before draining your pool, allow the water to stand for at least 48 hours after the last addition of chlorine or until the free chlorine residual is less than 1 ppm (or 1 mg/L). If you need to drain your pool quickly, you can purchase chlorine-neutralizing chemicals such as sodium thiosulfate at your local pool supply company.
- Test the free chlorine residual before discharging. A free chlorine residual should not be detected. The chlorine residual can be tested using a standard pool test.
- Check that the water is clear and free of solids.
- Check that the pH is between 7.0 and 8.0.
- Algaecides containing copper or silver can interrupt normal algal and plant growth in surface water bodies and should be used with caution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before discharging water that has had an algaecide added recently.

WHEN DRAINING YOUR POOL

- Control the rate of discharge across your property to avoid erosion and nuisance conditions for neighboring properties. Nuisance conditions such as the creation of odors, mosquito breeding conditions, or flooding can occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.
- Direct the discharge over a vegetated surface for at least 10 feet so natural filtration can occur.
- Do not discharge on areas recently treated with herbicides or pesticides.

DISPOSAL TO SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

Pool and spa wastewater should not be discharged into the sanitary sewer system without the permission of the Town of Belleair. Avoid discharging to the sanitary sewer system during or immediately after a significant rainfall event.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#) and the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) provide additional information on best practices for pool and wastewater discharge. The Town of Belleair's public works staff is also available if residents should have any questions, and may be reached at the John J. Osborne Public Works Building; (727) 588-3795. Belleair's local Code of Ordinances is also a great resource to learn more about Belleair-specific regulations.

THE TOWN OF BELLEAIR CODE OF ORDINANCES (WWW.TOWNOFBELLEAIR.COM/CODE)

[62-304 - Illicit discharges](#) | [62-58 - Independent connections required, exceptions; prohibited connections](#)