

SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGE ETIQUETTE

As pool owners contemplate closing their pools for the season, the question of pool discharge arises. During the swimming season pool owners have spent much time and some money ensuring that the chlorine level in their pool is high enough to prevent anyone from becoming ill. However, now that the season is over and people are ready to drain their pools, that residual chlorine can become a problem for the wildlife living on the receiving end of the discharge. Just as the chlorine was so effective at killing the bacteria and algae during the year, it can also kill the natural biota in the waterway.

To help alleviate this problem, pool owners should turn the pool chlorinators off several days before they are ready to empty the pool. By doing this, the residual chlorine you tried so hard to maintain during the season will dissipate and not harm the wildlife on the receiving end of the water.

Always be alert to the fact that this discharge water can create an erosion problem. Placing a rock run at the end of the discharge hose would help disperse the water's force. Please be a good neighbor and do not discharge your pool onto your neighbor's yard. This may create a mosquito problem in the age of West Nile Virus.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency does not require a permit to discharge pool water at the end of the season; however the water should be tested to ensure that there is no residual chlorine. Do not drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system.

If you have additional questions regarding the discharge of swimming pool water contact your local Health Department or the Ohio EPA.