STORING AND DISPOSING OF POOL CHEMICALS

- Store all pool chemicals in labeled containers in a secure, dry storage area.
- NEVER hose spills into a driveway, street or storm drain. Sweep dry chemicals and use dry absorbent for liquid chemicals, then sweep. For small amounts, place in household trash.
- Chlorine containers: Rinse 3 times with pool water before recycling. Check container recycling codes and local recycling acceptability. If not acceptable for recycling, throw in household trash.
- Leftover or old chemicals may be recycled at the Orange County Solid Waste Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center on Eubanks Road. Call 919-968-2788 for more information.

Make Pool Water SAFE as RAIN before you DRAIN.

Chapel Hill Code of Ordinances
Chapter 23, Article V

No person shall cause or allow the discharge, emission, disposal, pouring or pumping directly or indirectly to the stormwater drainage system, including the MS4 or waters of the State, or upon the land, in a manner and amount that the substance is likely to reach the stormwater drainage, any liquid, solid, gas or other substance, other than stormwater.

Pool owners are responsible for the actions of pool maintenance services and contractors. Contractors must follow regulations when they drain pool or spa water, backwash filters, or dispose of pool resurfacing sludge.

Town of Chapel Hill
Stormwater Management
919-969-7246
stormwater@townofchapelhill.org
www.townofchapelhill.org/stormwater

STORMWATER POLLUTION HOTLINE:
911 for emergencies
919-969-RAIN (7246)

Protect Our Environment While Maintaining Swimming Pools & Spas

Q: Why can't pool and spa water be discharged into storm drains or creeks?

A: In North Carolina, storm drains and yard drains lead directly to creeks and drinking water reservoirs with no treatment.

Water conditioners, chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, stabilizers, salts and other chemicals used in pool and spa water **are toxic** to fish and other aquatic life, and disrupt natural balance within waterways. **Pool chemicals are prohibited by law from being discharged into storm drains or waterways.**

Allowable discharges include dechlorinated pool water that has no trace of chemicals. **Pool filter backwash or saltwater pool discharges are prohibited in storm drains and drainage channels leading to streams.**

Q: May we drain our pool into the sanitary sewer system?

A: It must be OWASA approved! If you want to pipe backwash or pool water into the sanitary sewer system, contact Orange Water and Sewer Authority for approval and instructions at 919-968-4421. Saltwater is not allowed.

Chlorinated or treated water is prohibited in storm drains and surface waters.
DO NOT drain swimming pool or spa water to your septic system as system failure may occur.

DRAINING POOL WATER

1) Remove solids (e.g., debris, leaves or dirt) from the pool water.

2) Before draining, let pool water sit for a week with no addition of chemicals. The pH range should be between 6.5 and 8.0 and total residual chlorine or bromine needs to be less than 1.0 mg/l (ppm) before discharging. Use a testing kit to verify levels.

3) When the pool water is free of all chemicals, drain pool water to **landscaped areas, lawns, or woods.** Control the flow of the draining pool water to prevent soil erosion. Drain the pool slowly over a period of a few days to allow vegetation to absorb most of the water. You can also devise a pool drain "fountain" to spread water in your yard and avoid erosion.

DISPOSING OF POOL BACKWASH

Swimming pool water contains a range of treatment products such as chlorine, salt and acid, and filtration media (sand or diatomaceous earth). In addition, the water contains dirt particles (sediments), wind-blown debris such as leaves and lawn cuttings, and body oils, sunscreen residues and potentially harmful bacteria. These are collected in the filter, and then backwashed with routine maintenance. **DO NOT ALLOW** the backwash to enter a surface water body, street, storm drain, drainage ditch, wetland or to flow onto your neighbors' property.

Consider backwashing into a holding tank to allow sediment to settle and chemicals to dissipate, or backwash into a rocked area, a rain garden, or an infiltration trench.

Diatomaceous earth filters—Diatomaceous earth (DE) used in some filters is very harmful to aquatic organisms. DE must be securely bagged, but can be placed in the trash.

Saltwater pool systems require special care and consideration—Salt remains in the environment and will accumulate in groundwater and soils over time. Until better treatment is available, establish a discharge area far away from streams or drainage ditches. Landscape with salt-tolerant plants.