

POOLS AND SPLASH PADS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff picks up contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks, and lawns.

Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains which leads directly to our local rivers and streams.



HOW DO POOLS & SPLASH PADS CONTRIBUTE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- Mismanagement can lead to stormwater contamination from chlorine, bromine, and other chemicals which are toxic to fish and other aquatic life.
- Improper wastewater disposal can threaten public health or safety, and/or become a nuisance.
- An influx of water to ecosystems can lead to flooding, ponding and/or erosion.



PREVENTATIVE CARE

- Know where your water discharges to.
- Keep pools covered when not in use to avoid evaporation and retain heat.
- Fix leaks promptly.



POOL WASTEWATER

- Ensure that your wastewater treatment facility is able to receive your pool's volume of water.
- If a sanitary sewer system is not available, apply for a surface water discharge permit with the Department of Environmental, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Discharging to surface water without a permit will lead to a dispute resolution action from EGLE.
- Dechlorinate before draining. Use a chlorine neutralizer.
- Don't discharge hot water. Let heated water cool before discharging.
- Discharge between rain events to permitted surface water slowly, in increments, to prevent erosion. Do not discharge to an adjacent property.

BACKWASH FILTER WASTEWATER

- Waste water from filter backwash may contain heavy metals, bacteria, viruses, microorganisms, chlorine, bromine, algaecides, dirt and/or sand.
- If you have access, directly drain backwash to a sanitary sewer system.
- Sand filter backwash discharges: Direct the first 30 seconds to a sanitary sewer system or holding tank or use settling treatment.
- Diatomaceous earth filters and perlite filters: Route the entire filter cleaning volume to a sanitary sewer system or holding tank, or use settling treatment.

ADDITIONAL STEPS

- Store chemicals indoors where there is no risk of spilling. When containers are empty, rinse them in the sink.
- Discard solid waste such as dirt and leaves saturated with chlorinated water, filtered backwash, or waste from strainer baskets to the trash.
- Wastewater from pool showers etc. must enter a sanitary sewer system.
- Save water with a grey water recycler or harvest rainwater.
- Swap chlorine for enzyme-based or natural mineral sanitizers.
- Rinse filter parts in a sink.

For more information: EGLE Surface Water Discharge Permit - [MIG760000 Public Swimming Pool Wastewater](#) or scan here.

