



# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGE

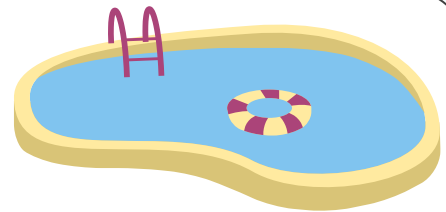
Chemicals used to treat pool water, like chlorine and salt, harm water quality and are toxic to fish and wildlife. Since pool owners often drain pools for repairs or winter, it is important to educate them on proper discharge practices to protect the environment.



## 01. Water Quality Requirements

**Pool water may only be discharged if it meets all of the following criteria:**

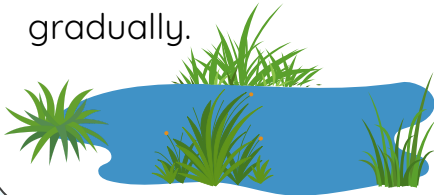
- a. Clear in appearance
- b. Free of chemicals (e.g., chlorine, bromine, algaecides)
- c. Free of salt
- d. pH level is between 6.0 and 9.0



## 02. Saltwater Pool Discharges:

**Salt can be harmful to vegetation and waterways. Follow these specific requirements:**

- a. Do not discharge saltwater into storm drains, ditches, or sanitary sewers.
- b. Only drain saltwater onto a suitable landscaped area, where soil and plants can absorb and filter the water gradually.



## 03. Chlorinated Pool Discharges:

**To safely discharge chlorinated pool water:**

- a. Cease all chemical treatment at least 7 days prior to discharge, or until chlorine levels are undetectable and pH is between 6.0 and 9.0.
- b. Remove all debris and solids from the water before draining
- c. Pump slowly to prevent erosion or damage to landscaping and adjacent properties.
- d. Discharge over a vegetated or landscaped area to allow for natural infiltration and filtration of the water into the ground.

**Report illicit discharges to Durham County Stormwater at  
[stormwater@dconc.gov](mailto:stormwater@dconc.gov) or 919-560-7008**