

# Draining Your Swimming Pool

Swimming pools are wonderful for relaxation and recreation. Even though they are safe for us, pools have high concentrations of chlorine that can be toxic to fish and wildlife. Algaecides contain copper or silver which hinders plant growth along streams.

By law, it is illegal to drain pollutants into storm drains or waterways. Properly discharging pool water helps protect aquatic life in the Peruque Creek and McCoy Creek watersheds.

*So, how should I drain my pool?*



Learn more at:  
[www.wentzvillemo.org/stormwater.aspx](http://www.wentzvillemo.org/stormwater.aspx)

*Here are Your Options:*

## **Option #1: On My Property**

- Simply discontinue chemical use for at least three days. Remove chlorine to <0.1 ppm by letting the sun shine on it for 10 days or by purchasing a chemical dechlorinator. The pH must be between 5.5 and 8.0.
- Freshwater pools can drain to storm drains if it meets the criteria above and does not cause erosion, stagnant water or a nuisance to neighbors.

## **Option #2: To the Sanitary System**

- Use a pump and hose to put water directly into the sanitary system (an indoor drain or sink, or a sewer cleanout). Do not drain into a septic system.

## **Backwashing the Filter**

- Backwash can drain on your property as long as it can be absorbed and filtered into the ground.
- Otherwise, it should go to the sanitary system.
- DO NOT drain into the street, storm drain, or onto a neighbor's property. Though low in volume, it has a higher concentration of contaminants compared to pool water.

*Following these guidelines will help protect Wentzville's natural resources.  
Questions? Call Public Works at (636) 327-5102.*

**THANK YOU!**