

Swimming Pool Discharges

A guidance document for Town of Guilderland Residents.

Be a Good Swimming Pool Neighbor!

Under certain conditions, draining swimming pools can cause a variety of environmental problems such as fish kills, erosion and a risk to public health and safety. Failure to follow appropriate procedures and/or implement appropriate safeguards may constitute a discharge of pollutants without a State Pollutant Discharge System (SPDES) permit and a violation of the Town of Guilderland Local Law No. 1 regarding Illicit Discharge.

Upon the discovery of a violation, the violator/discharger may be subject to significant fines as outlined in the Town of Guilderland Local Law No. 1, Section L. (2) Penalties, along with any potential additional fines from NYS DEC, US EPA and any civil or criminal penalties if the discharge of contaminated water is within 250 ft. of a waterbody.

Be Astute! Don't Pollute!

Generally, a 10-day holding time (after the last chemical treatment) is usually adequate to dissipate chlorine for discharge. Pool water should be essentially free of chlorine (< 0.1 ppm total chlorine), algaecides, and any other potential pollutants prior to discharge.

For extra protection, direct pool discharges toward a lawn or wooded area so the water can be absorbed into the soil. Also, try to keep the flow to a reasonable amount to avoid pooling of stagnant water or erosion. Move the outlet to different areas to spread the water out!

If the water can only be discharged into the road and there is no other alternative, keep the gallons per minute (GPM) under 200 and do not discharge any pool water within 48 hours of any rain event. Do not put the discharge outlet directly into the drain!

Keep Our Water Safe and Clean!

Remember, it is up to all of us to do our part to protect the environment. Be a good neighbor, and to comply with the law.

For additional information regarding pool water discharges or water problems requiring permits, feel free to contact the Stormwater Program Office in the Town of Guilderland Building Department at 518-356-1980 ext. 1072 or Region 4 NYSDEC office at 518-367-2380.

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