

## Disposal of Water from Swimming Pools or Hot Tubs

Disposal of swimming pool and hot tub water into the storm sewer system is a violation of the Pollution Ordinance unless the water is free of pollutants that can harm the environment.

Typical swimming pool and hot tub water (backwashing, draining, or cleaning) can be pumped directly into the sanitary sewer system. The pumping rate must be controlled to prevent adding too much water to the sanitary sewer system at any one time. In some residential areas, pumping too much water can overload the sanitary sewer system's capacity and cause an overflow of raw sewage onto the street or the environment.

### Disposal Options for Chlorine Pools/Hot Tubs:

#### Option 1 – Disposal into the Sanitary-Sewer System

The best option is to pump chlorinated pool and hot tub water into the sanitary sewer system under the following circumstances

1. Discontinue adding chlorine and other chemicals. Turn off the heater if equipped, at least 72 hours prior to the disposal of chlorinated pool and hot tub water.
2. Make sure any remaining chemicals will not result in a violation of the City Ordinance Title 11-C Chapter 12.
3. It is best to discharge pool and hot tub water only during dry weather conditions and at a slow pump rate as to not cause an overflow of the sanitary sewer system. Discharges of a high rate can cause sanitary sewer overflows which contaminate local waterways and can result in enforcement action.
4. If you have any questions about the above procedures, please call the Stormwater and Land Management desk at (918) 591-4325.

#### Option 2 – Disposal onto Property

Water from chlorinated pools and hot tubs may be disposed of on your lawn or used to water your property under the following circumstances:

1. Discontinue adding chlorine and other chemicals and turn off the heater at least 72 hours prior to disposal or draining the water on to your property.
2. Wait until the chlorine levels are not measureable and pH is near 7. **Note:** waiting time depends on the initial chlorine levels but can usually be sufficiently reduced within 72 hours.
3. Be aware that any remaining algaecides, disinfectants or pH control chemicals may have a long-term effect on the plants and soil on your property. So, check with a professional to make sure you do not unintentionally kill a favorite plant.
4. Dispose of water or irrigate in a manner which will prevent nuisance conditions such as stagnated pools which cause odors and attract flies and mosquitoes.

#### A note about chloramines:

- Chloramine, a disinfectant product added to the City of Tulsa's potable water supply, is toxic to some aquatic life. It is more stable than chlorine and will not readily dissipate by sitting or aerating. For more information, visit: [www.tulsawater.com](http://www.tulsawater.com)

# STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

## Disposal Options for Salt-Water Pools:

### Option 1 – Disposal into the Sanitary-Sewer System

**Do not pump salt water directly into storm sewers, streets, creeks or ponds.** Follow the previous steps for chlorine pools for disposing to the sanitary sewer system.

### Option 2 – Disposal onto Property

Water from salt water pools and hot tubs may be disposed on your lawn or used to water your property under the following circumstances:

- Check with the Tulsa County OSU Cooperative Extension at (918) 746-3700 or a reputable lawn-care professional or pool professional to learn how to avoid any long-term damaging effects it will have on plants and soils that will be exposed to the water.
- Discontinue adding salt and other chemicals at least a week prior to disposal.
- Make sure your heating system is turned off to allow the water to reach normal outdoor temperatures.
- Make sure the pH is near 7.
- Dispose of water or irrigate in a manner which will prevent nuisance conditions such as stagnated pools that can cause odors and attract flies and mosquitoes.
- If unused pool chemicals are leftover disposing of them correctly is imperative. It is against the law to dispose of chemicals down the storm sewer system. To dispose of unused chemicals correctly (from non-business generated waste only) please call 918-596-2100 to schedule a free appointment to drop off chemicals at Tulsa's Household Pollutant Collection Facility. For a list of businesses that take unwanted commercial chemicals, visit: [www.cityoftulsa.org/resourcerecovery](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/resourcerecovery)

## Guidelines for Compliance with the City of Tulsa Code

All discharges to a City of Tulsa sewer system are required to be in compliance with the City of Tulsa Ordinances. The applicable ordinances are listed below:

Sewer System	Name	Ordinance	Internet Address
Storm	Pollution	Title 11-A, Chapter 5	<a href="http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx">http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx</a>
Sanitary	Sewer Use	Title 11-C, Chapter 12	<a href="http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx">http://www.cityoftulsa.org/our-city/city-charter--ordinances.aspx</a>

**BMPS are an important tool in helping the City of Tulsa remain a vibrant and healthy place to live and work. They also help the city maintain compliance with its Stormwater Quality Permit.**



**Streets & Stormwater Department**  
4502 S. Galveston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74107  
(918) 591-4325 | [www.cityoftulsa.org/sos](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/sos)

