



Pool Water Discharge Protocol

As part of an ongoing and mandated effort to protect stream health and aquatic life, the Borough would like to remind private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, how to properly discharge and dispose of swimming pool and hot tub water. Discharged pool water containing chlorine and other disinfectants are detrimental to aquatic life. It is extremely important that these discharges are handled properly. The Borough is mandated to comply with the terms of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, issued by PA DEP in conjunction with the US EPA. As such, pool waters must not be discharged to the Borough's stormwater system, the gutter or curblin, or upon lands in which runoff would ultimately be conveyed to a stream, wetland, or pond.

Basis for Prohibition of Pool Discharges: The discharge of any sewage or industrial waste, including all types of swimming pool and hot tub water, to any Water or the Commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law and is a violation of the Borough of Hanover Stormwater Management Ordinance 2235, Article VII Section 701 Prohibited Discharges and Connections, adopted in 2015 and amended in 2018. Property owners and pool companies that violate these laws may be prosecuted and penalized for damages.

Pool Guidelines:

A. Prohibited Discharges

- a. Water from pools or hot tubs shall not be discharged to the storm sewer
- b. Water from pools or hot tubs shall not be discharged to a stream, wetland, or pond; or drainage feature that directly discharges to a stream, wetland, or pond.
- c. Water from backwashing pool filters, sand and diatomaceous earth filters shall not be discharged onsite. These discharges must be discharged to the sanitary sewer or hauled away as wastewater.
- d. Water that contains chlorine and other chemicals used for cleaning pool surfaces should be hauled away as wastewater.

B. Disposal of water onsite

1. Prior to discharge, shut off the automatic chlorination system (if there is one) or stop adding chlorine manually. No chlorine or chemicals should be added for approximately 14 days prior to discharge. The volume and rate of pool discharge or hot tub discharge shall not exceed what can be discharged to the ground without causing scour or erosion onsite or downgradient. Discharge can be used for irrigation in an area where the water will not flow into a stream, stormwater system or roadway. Irrigation/discharge should be done in a manner that will infiltrate into the soil within three days.
2. If standing water for longer than three days occurs, it should be pumped to a stable vegetated portion of the owner's property.

3. Discharge from cleaning filters must be directed to an area where it can infiltrate into the soil without causing erosion.
4. If discharging the water onsite is not feasible, then pool water shall be discharged to the sanitary sewer or hauled away to an approved treatment facility consistent with standards set forth below.

C. Disposal of water to sanitary sewer system

1. Contact the Hanover Borough Pretreatment Officer prior to discharging, (717) 637-3877.
2. Upon gaining written authorization from the Borough Pretreatment Officer, operators may discharge pool backwash water, hot tub water, pool cleaning wastewater and standing water to the sanitary sewer system.
3. Upon gaining written authorization from the Borough Pretreatment Officer, operators may discharge pool water to the sanitary sewer system consistent with the following standards
 - a. Prior to disposal, shut off the automatic chlorination system (if there is one) or stop adding chlorine or other chemicals.
 - b. Hold the water in the pool for approximately 14 days prior to discharge to allow chemical concentrations to dissipate.
 - c. Measure the chlorine level in the pool prior to discharging. The water should not show any detectable levels of chlorine. The water must be tested and pH levels should be between six and nine standard units.
 - d. Use a small volume pump discharging through a garden hose. (<80 gallons per minute)
 - e. Discharge into access “cap” of the private property sewer cleanout. This tube should be three to four inches wide. If you cannot find a cleanout, you can use a sink or bathtub drain inside the property. DO NOT use public manholes or cleanout pipes located off your property or within the public right of way. Checking the cap or household drain constantly during the pumping will ensure that the drain(s) do not back up. If drains are observed to back up, stop pumping immediately and call a licensed plumber.
4. Care should be taken to make sure the discharge goes into a sanitary sewer and not a storm sewer, which may ultimately discharge directly to a stream.
5. If sanitary sewers are not in the immediate area, the wastewater from pool maintenance or dewatering operations should be addressed by off-site removal and disposal at an approved treatment facility.

D. Disposal of water off site by a licensed wastewater hauler

1. A licensed wastewater pumper / hauler may be contacted at any point to haul the discharge off site at an approved treatment facility.