



# Pool Water Discharge Protocol

As part of an ongoing and mandated effort to help 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 pool water. Discharged pool water and waters containing chlorine or other chemicals are detrimental to aquatic life if not handled responsibly. 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 any portion of the Borough's stormwater system or upon lands in which runoff would ultimately be conveyed to the system or other waters of the Commonwealth/US.

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Basis for Prohibition of Pool Discharges: The discharge of any sewage or industrial waste, including all types of swimming pool water and hot tub, to any waters 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. 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. The volume of pool discharge or hot tub discharge shall not exceed what can be discharged to the ground without causing scour or erosion related issues. 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 prevent nuisance conditions such as creation of standing water which may lead to odors and mosquito breeding conditions.
2. Standing water or accumulated rain and/or pool/hot tub water should be pumped in the same manner, to a stable vegetated portion of the owner's property.
3. Cartridge filters should be cleaned onto an area where it can infiltrate and allowing filter residue to reside with the soil. Backwashing pool filters, sand and diatomaceous earth filters, must be discharged onto vegetated (stable) areas.

If discharging the water onsite is not feasible, then the following guidelines must be followed before discharging.

### **B. Disposal of water to sanitary sewer system**

The Borough of Hanover must be contacted, (717) 637-3877.

1. The Borough Pretreatment Officer grants written permission for pool backwash water, hot tub water, pool cleaning wastewater and standing water to be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. The water must be proven "neutral" before discharge:



- 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 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.
- d. Use small volume pump, a standard garden hose is recommended. (<800 gallons per minute)
- e. Discharge with hose 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 cleanouts. Checking the cap or household drain **constantly** during the pumping is to ensure that the drain(s) do not back up. If drains are observed to back up, stop pumping immediately and call a licensed plumber.
- f. Water from backwashing pool filters, sand and diatomaceous earth filters, must be discharged to the sanitary sewer in this option.
- g. Cleaning wastewaters that contain other chemicals and chlorine that is used in cleaning pool surfaces should follow Section B along with extra precautions: Neutralized pH between six and nine standard units, total chlorine residual less than 0.5 mg/l.

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. 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.

**C. 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.