



Swimming Pool Maintenance Reference Guide

The following reference material is to be used by the swimming pool and spa operator/owner as a guide to facilitate compliance under the current Davidson County, **Metro Water Services (MWS) environmental regulations**. However, in order to insure compliance within Metro Nashville/Davidson County, the swimming pool and spa operator/owner must be aware of *all* pertinent Metro, State, and Federal regulations and not simply those contained within this document.

When draining or backwashing a swimming pool or spa, all individuals involved must first understand that the discharge produced may be harmful to the environment and should be disposed of in a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary waste treatment plant. **The storm drains in Davidson County do not route water to the MWS sanitary waste treatment plant!** Instead, the storm drains within Davidson County are part of Metro's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This MS4 includes all storm drains, roads, ditches, culverts, or parking lots that are designed to route **clean/unpolluted stormwater**, safely into the streams of Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

The NPDES division of MWS has the specific task of monitoring all discharges into this MS4 for the purpose of maintaining the water quality of the streams within Davidson County. **Swimming pool and spa wastewater contains high levels of chlorine and other chemicals and if disposed of improperly into a stream or the MS4, would damage this stream and the aquatic life within it.** Nearly all discharges into the MS4 and streams (including pool and spa wastewater) are deemed "Illicit Discharges" and are **illegal** in Davidson County under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §§ 15.64.205.

If discharging pool or spa wastewater to the environment is the only option, the pool and spa owner/operator must follow these guidelines.

- ❑ Make sure no chlorine has been added to the pool or spa in the last 48 hrs.
- ❑ Test the chlorine level (using a standard pool chlorine test kit) to insure that the level is below 0.1 milligrams/liter. If not, let the water stand until the chlorine dissipates and the level falls below 0.1 milligrams/liter.
- ❑ Discharge the water slowly over an open grassy area at a controlled volume (**not directly into a stream or the MS4**). This will allow the water to be absorbed into the soil and help filter out any chemicals or solids remaining in the water.

If you have questions, contact the MWS NPDES office at (615) 880-2420.

As stated previously, **the routing of pool and spa wastewater down a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary treatment plant is the preferred method of disposal for the pool and spa owner/operator.** By routing this water through a sanitary drain, it is insured that this wastewater will be properly treated at a treatment plant and not have any detrimental effects on the environment. All discharges into sanitary lines/drains that route to a treatment plant are monitored by the Industrial Compliance Section of MWS and are regulated under Metro Code

of Laws (Metro Code) §§15.60 “Industrial Waste Discharges”. If you have any questions, call the MWS Industrial Compliance Office at (615) 862-4590.

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our streams as a valuable natural resource and your help in the protection and improvement of the streams within Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

This publication is a public service of:
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Metro Water Services is in the process of complying with all appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines. For additional information contact Joseph A. Estes, Sr., 1600 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208-2206; telephone 615-862-4862.