

Swimming Pool Drainage

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Guidelines for Draining Your Swimming Pool in Lake Forest

Impact of Chlorine & Proper Drainage Procedures

If it is necessary to drain your swimming pool or hot tub, it is essential to de-chlorinate your water before the process begins. High concentrations of chlorine are toxic to fish and other wildlife, and so chlorinated water should not be discharged into local ravines, streams, rivers, or Lake Michigan.

Discharging chlorinated pool water into the City's storm drains is equally as harmful, since these drains carry the runoff directly into streams, ponds, lakes, and catchment basins. In addition, water should not be drained into a sanitary sewer, since the chlorine can negatively impact the micro-organisms that biodegrade the wastewater at the treatment plant.



To Remove Chlorine from your Pool Water

- De-chlorinate the pool water prior to draining through chemical means. These types of products will quickly remove chlorine and are available through pool and spa care vendors. Carefully follow the directions on the product label while using.
- You can also de-chlorinate the water in the pool through natural means. Allow the water to sit for at least 2 days in sunlight without the further addition of chlorine. It is recommended that you test the water afterwards to ensure that concentrations are at a safe level (below 0.1 mg/L) before draining.

Steps for Draining Your Pool or Hot Tub

- Once the water is de-chlorinated, it can be discharged across your own lawn over a period of two to three days.
- Make sure to direct the water over your own lawn or into a storm drain and NOT down a ravine, or on a neighbor's property.

Additional Tips

- Always be sure to follow the operation and maintenance instructions for your particular swimming pool.
- If you plan to use the pool the following year, it may be beneficial to leave some water in it.
- Above-ground pools can benefit from the weight of the water, and they are better able to withstand potential damage from harsh winds in the winter when still partially filled.
- Leaving an in-ground pool partially filled can help prevent structural damage. During high groundwater periods, the water table can get high enough to push the shell of an in-ground pool up out of the ground.

