

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Regional Office

SWIMMING POOL GUIDELINES

The discharge of any sewage or industrial waste, including swimming pool water, to a water of the Commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law, the Act of June 22, 1937, P.L. 1987, as amended.

It has been the Department's policy not to require permits for discharges from single residence pools, provided the guidelines outlined below are followed.

These guidelines shall not construed so as to waive or impair any rights of the Department of Environmental Protection to prosecute the property (pool) owner and/or pool company for any stream damage that occurs as a result of the discharge. Penalties would be assessed under the provisions of the Clean Streams Law.

Pool Guidelines endorsed by East Rockhill Township:

1) Discharge of Water

- a) Water should be pumped over a grassy area to allow absorption, filtration, and aeration of water. The discharge should be at a rate which prevents erosion and optimized filtration. In no event shall pool waters be directly discharged to waters of the Commonwealth.
- i) Standing Water or accumulated rain and/or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top so as not to disturb settled solids. Solids on the pool bottom should not be discharged. Following pump down of water, solids should be cleaned out manually. The discharge should not rise in stream temperatures by more than 2 degrees F in a one-hour period or a total of 5 degrees F, pH should be between 6 and 9 standard units and total chorine residual should be 0.0 mg/1.
- ii) Cleaning Wastewaters containing muriatic acid or chlorine that is used in cleaning pool surfaces needs to be treated prior to discharge. Muriatic acid wastewater should be neutralized to a pH between 6 and 9 standard units. Chorine rinses should stand for a period of days to allow chlorine degradation prior to discharge. Total chlorine residual of the wastewater discharge should be less than 0.5 mg/1. Temperature should be monitored as above (standing water). Chlorine rinse water pH should be between 6 and 9 standard units.
- iii) Filter Backwash Water during normal pool operation must be at a sufficiently low volume that all water infiltrates to the ground. Backwash water discharged to a stream or storm sewer is not permitted.

Questions concerning pool guidelines should be directed to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, Bureau of Water Management, Telephone: 484-250-5970.