



Disposal of Chlorinated Water from Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contain high levels of chlorine. Discharging chlorinated pool/spa water into streams, (or irrigation canals, ponds, etc.) is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. This fact sheet was developed to provide you with information on management practices that will minimize the impact of chlorinated water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs. The following 'Best Management Practices' apply to water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs.

Chlorinated water should not be discharged into storm sewers or surface waters. This is especially true for large pools such as community swimming pools. Discharge to a sanitary sewer is not possible because it is not allowed.

Chlorinated water from pools and hot tubs may be disposed on the ground or irrigated on your property under the following circumstances.

- Prior to disposing or irrigating the water, shut off the chlorination system if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
- Hold the water in the pool or hot tub for at least one week to reduce the chlorine level.
- Discharge or irrigate the water in an area where the water will not flow into a stream or storm sewer.
- Discharge or irrigate the water on your property and ensure that it does not flow off your property.
- Discharge or irrigate the water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions). Nuisance conditions occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.

Note: Water from back flushing pool filters should not be discharged to a stream, ditch, or storm sewer. Back flush from pool filters is allowed to be discharged to the sanitary sewer, to an on-site septic tank and drain field system (if properly designed and adequately sized), or to a seepage pit.

If land irrigation of chlorinated water from pools or hot tubs is not feasible, the chlorinated water may still be discharged to the ground (where it may reach a stream, ditch, or storm sewer) under the following circumstances:

- Prior to discharging the water, shut off the chlorination system if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
- Hold water in the pool or hot tub for at least two weeks to allow the chlorine to dissipate.
- Measure the chlorine level in the pool or hot tub prior to discharging the water. The water should not show any detectable levels of chlorine because chlorine is harmful to fish and other aquatic life even at low concentrations. A longer holding period may be necessary if chlorine levels continue to remain at detectable levels at the end of two weeks. Chlorine measurements can be made with a chlorine test kit (color metric).
- Discharge the water so it does not flow over someone else's property.
- Discharge the water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions). Nuisance conditions occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.

Pick Up The Phone

City of Medford Resources

→	Business License	774-2025
→	Stormwater Information	774-2600
→	Stormwater Rate/Billing Information	774-2100
→	Pollution Complaints/Stormwater Discharge Violations	774-2600
→	Stormwater System Maintenance	774-2600
→	Disposal to the Wastewater Treatment System	774-2750

Hazardous Waste/Disposal Alternatives

- *Emergency Spills:*
City of Medford 9-1-1
- *Hazardous Waste:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Recycling Services:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Discharge Permits:*
Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010/X246
Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant 774-2750
- *Storage Considerations:*
City of Medford Fire Marshall's Office 774-2318
- *Technical Assistance:*
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010X246