



What is a Public Swimming Pool?

Part 125 of the Public Health Code defines public pools as "...an artificial body of water used collectively by a number of individuals primarily for the purpose of swimming, wading, recreation, or instruction and includes related equipment, structures, areas, and enclosures intended for the use of individuals using or operating the swimming pool such as equipment, dressing, locker, shower, and toilet rooms. Public swimming pools include those which are parks, schools, motels, camps, resorts, apartments, clubs, hotels, mobile home parks, subdivisions and the likes." "Public pools" also include water slides, lazy rivers and water theme amusement parks.

Where does my pool wastewater and filter backwash go?

Pool wastewater and filter backwash (wastewater) should be discharged to the **municipal sanitary sewer** for treatment. If you do not know where your wastewater goes, you will need to find out prior to discharging. The easiest way to find out is to review "as built" design prints for your facility and confirm all drains are shown properly routed to the sanitary sewer. Closed circuit cameras and dye testing by properly licensed professionals may also be an option. Contact your local municipal sanitary sewer facility prior to discharging wastewater for guidance and possible notification/permitting requirements.

What if my pool wastewater discharges into a storm drain?

Storm drains discharge **untreated** water into ditches, streams and lakes. Streams and lakes are considered to be "waters of the state" and are under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Legal discharge of pool wastewater to a storm drain requires a **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit** from the MDEQ. The NPDES permit will have effluent limitations and monitoring requirements to ensure that the discharge will not have a negative impact on waters of the state. A typical general NPDES permit will have the following effluent requirements (read your individual permit carefully for additional monitoring and observation requirements):

- ◆ **Total Residual Chlorine:** (no bromine) discharging for **at least** 160 minutes/day = max. concentration of **0.038 mg/L (ppm)**
- ◆ **Total Residual Chlorine:** (no bromine) discharging for **less than** 160 minutes/day = max. concentration of **0.20 mg/L (ppm)**
- ◆ **Bromine:** discharging for **less than** 120 minutes/day = max. concentration of **0.05 mg/L (ppm)**
- ◆ **pH:** Minimum: **6.5** Maximum: **9.0**

How do I get an NPDES Permit and how much will it cost?

Download an NPDES Permit application from the MDEQ website, complete, sign and mail in with an application fee of \$75. Allow at least 180 days for processing. The permit covers a 5-year period and has a fee of \$150 per year to maintain the permit. Upon expiration of the 5-year period you must reapply for another 5-year period to ensure continuous coverage. Contact MDEQ at 517-780-7690 with questions. *Note: MDEQ fees and procedures may be subject to change.*

- ◆ **A licensed plumbing contractor may also reroute the pool wastewater discharge piping from the storm drain to the municipal sanitary sewer so that an NPDES permit will not be required.**

General Information:

- ◆ If your pool wastewater is discharged into a storm drain that is either a County Drain or discharges to a County Drain via a **temporary** hose or pipe, you will need a permit from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.
- ◆ Do not discharge any pool wastewater that has unnatural turbidity, color, oil film, floating solids, foams, settleable solids, suspended solids, debris, vegetation, algae or other pollutants.
- ◆ Do not discharge pool wastewater to an onsite septic system. In addition to disrupting the treatment processes in the septic tanks, the large volume of water may flood the drain field and cause it to fail.
- ◆ Discharge pool wastewater at a rate that will not cause any damage to plumbing infrastructure, flooding or erosion.
- ◆ Discharge pool wastewater in a manner that will prevent the creation of nuisance conditions such as prolonged ponding, odors and mosquito breeding conditions.

Contact Information:

MDEQ Jackson District Office	517-780-7690	www.michigan.gov/deq
Washtenaw County Environmental Health Division	734-222-3800	environmentalhealth.ewashtenaw.org
Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner	734-222-6860	drain.ewashtenaw.org
City of Ann Arbor Wastewater Treatment Plant	734-971-4834	www.a2gov.org
Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority	734-484-4600	www.ycua.org