

Guidelines for Draining Swimming Pools

As you plan to empty out your pool, please remember that it is filled with chlorinated water. Chlorinated water discharged directly to surface waters (wetlands, lakes, streams, and rivers), roadways or storm sewers has an adverse impact on local water quality. High concentrations of chlorine are toxic to wildlife and fish. To help protect the environment when draining your pool, it is recommended you abide by one of the following measures:

- De-chlorinate the water in the pool prior to draining. This can be done through mechanical or chemical means. These types of products are readily available at local stores.
- Drain the pool over a period of several days across your lawn using the following additional guidelines:
 - Allow pool water to sit at least 2 days while receiving a reasonable amount of sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine. It is recommended that the chlorine level be tested after 2 days to ensure that safe levels are met (below 0.1 mg/l).
 - Pool discharge should be directed across your lawn, not down your driveway or into nearby storm sewer inlets. Our storm sewer system leads directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.

You may contact the Village of Winnetka's Engineering Department with questions at 847-716-3568.