

GUIDELINES FOR DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA

With your new ownership comes certain maintenance responsibilities. For example, you may occasionally have the need to drain the water from your pool. The City of Dixon would like to help guide you in the proper disposal of your pool water to prevent pollution.

When drained to a street or storm drain, water from pools pose a particular threat to aquatic organisms because of the copper and chlorine people have added to the water. These substances then flow directly to our local drainage ponds and the Sacramento Delta, without treatment. Chlorinated pool water is toxic to the aquatic plants and wildlife. Copper, often added to the pool water for uses such as killing algae, is especially poisonous, even in very small amounts, to aquatic plants and animals.

If you drain your pool, make sure the water goes in to the sanitary sewer (generally through the residence's sewer line cleanout in front of the house) rather than the street or storm drain. Filter backwash, which has the greatest concentration of pollutants, should always be discharged to the sewer, not the storm drain.

Whenever possible:

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to storm water.

Please be advised that draining chlorinated pool water into the City storm drain system is prohibited per Municipal Code Section 16.06.080. Violators can be held liable for the cost of cleaning up the illegal discharge and may be subject to additional fines up to \$250 per occurrence.

If you would like additional information on environmental issues please call City staff at (707) 678-7051, ext. 103. Thank you.