



FILE: W19-05-POOL

08 September 2009

Poolarama  
881 Richmond Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K2A 0G8

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Pool Water Discharge Guidelines**

The Sewer Use By-law regulates the discharge of materials to the sewer system. Generally speaking, the discharge of materials from swimming pools to the storm sewer is prohibited, due to the fact that it often contains substances that are toxic to aquatic life. The City is in the process of incorporating Environmental Best Management Practices for private swimming pools and spas into the Sewer Use By-law. These Practices were developed by the City of Toronto in conjunction with the Pool Council of Canada. In the interim, please take into consideration the following guidelines:

Standing water on pool covers:

- rainwater or snow melt water on the pool covers can be discharged to the storm sewer, as long as the water is free of debris and leaves are removed from the water prior to discharge

Water from chlorine/bromine-based pools may be discharged to the storm sewer provided:

- it does not contain algaecides or fungicides
- it is dechlorinated and the level is at less than 0.01 ng/l (Pool water can be dechlorinated by not adding any chemicals to the pool for a week or by using sodium thiosulphate)
- the copper concentration is below 0.04mg/l
- the pH is between 6 and 9
- it is free of debris and algae
- the discharge does not take place during a rain event, and is be performed carefully so as not to flood the road or impact surrounding properties

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Backwash water may be discharged to the storm sewer if:

- it is first **DECHLORINATED & FILTERED** through a cartridge and meets all of the criteria in the preceding section

Water from pools that do not meet the storm sewer criteria and water from **saltwater pools** must be:

- discharged to the sanitary sewer; or
- discharged onto the owners property so that it is absorbed into the ground without flowing onto adjoining properties, over a valley or into a ravine, or such that it causes erosion; or
- transported by an appropriately licensed hauler.

Please note, noncompliant discharges to the sewage works will be followed up with appropriate enforcement activity. For your information, the ticket associated with violating these guidelines is in the amount of \$300.00.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Sewer Use Program Duty Officer at 613-580-2424, extension 23326.

Sincerely,

Matthew Prince  
Compliance Officer  
Sewer Use Program

MP/jm