



Your pool and spa water can be toxic to aquatic life in our creeks and streams. Drain pools and spas responsibly.

Recommended Procedure for draining pools and spas

Chlorinated Pools

- Drain pools and spas to your sanitary sewer cleanout when possible, and after taking the proper precautions. If this is not an option, discharge over land.
- Before draining, ensure chlorine level is <1ppm, pH is between 6.5 and 8.5 and the total suspended solids (TSS) is <60 mg/l. Chlorine levels can be reduced with three to four days of sunlight. (Leaving the pool without chlorine longer than three to four days may encourage growth of bacteria).

Salt Water Pools

- Never drain to the street, gutter or storm drain! Discharge water to a sanitary sewer clean out. If you do not have sanitary sewer clean out, contact Public Works at 563.326.7923 to seek assistance with locating a sanitary outlet.

Never drain pool water to the street, gutter or storm drain!



Draining to the sanitary sewer system not an option? Drain the water over at least 15 feet of grassy landscape. Keep the water flow low, about 12 gallons per minute to prevent erosion of soil and vegetation.



Tips for Finding your Sanitary Sewer Clean Out:

- If your kitchen or bathroom is on an exterior wall of your house, look along that wall for the clean out.
- Check your property or sidewalk for a small concrete or metal cover marked "sewer".
- Look for a small circular cap on a pipe. This may be located on the ground or the side of your home.
- If you can't locate the clean out, contact the Public Works Department at 563.326.7923.

Chemicals used in pools and spas can be toxic to our waterways. Take steps to properly dispose pool and spa water and protect our creeks and streams.

Chemicals such as chlorine and copper contained in pool water burn the gills and fins of fish when introduced into our waterways. Water from salt water pools can be equally damaging, because the byproduct of the salt water process, bromoform, is also harmful to aquatic life. Learn more about the harmful effects of pool water on our environment on the reverse.



Did you know?

- Draining swimming pools and spas to storm drains can pollute creeks, streams, rivers and lakes with copper, chlorine and other chemicals.
- Storm drains flow directly into our waterways without treatment!
- Chlorine and copper are toxic at low levels to aquatic life.
- Bromine and peroxide are also disinfectants and oxidizers and will have the same effect in our waters as chlorine.
- Chlorine is toxic to fish and other aquatic life at very low levels. Chlorine burns the gills and fins of fish, destroys sensory organs, interferes with the ability of fish to find food, and causes internal organ damage. If the receiving water contains a lot of decaying, organic matter (from decaying plants, algae and bacteria) and chlorine it can combine with the byproducts to form compounds called trihalomethanes, which are persistent in the aquatic environment and pose a health threat to living things for a long time.
- Copper is found in pipes and used as an algicide in swimming pools. It is a pollutant that directly threatens aquatic life. Excess copper in water causes the formation of acid pH levels, burns the gills of fish, interferes with respiration, and causes internal organ damage.
- A salt water pool is a swimming pool filled with a mild salt solution. A public misconception is that salt water pools provide a more environmentally friendly alternative to chlorine. Salt water pools use a chlorine generator to produce its own chlorine by breaking down salt (sodium hypochlorite). Salt must be added to the pool to keep the salt solution strong enough for the chlorine generator to work. Salt water pools generate the chemical byproduct bromoform. Bromoform is a persistent organic pollutant that accumulates in the environment and is very harmful to aquatic life.

Other Pool Tips that Reduce Corrosion and Water Pollution

- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize copper corrosion in pipes that can stain your pool.
- Copper algicide can collect in the pool filter. Rinse cartridge filters or clean diatomaceous sand filters onto a dirt area and spade the residue into the soil.
- Consider using alternatives to copper-based algaecides such as sodium bromide.

Installing a pool? Permits are required for any swimming pool over 18 inches deep, above or in-ground. Find more information on pool codes, gate, barrier, and other location requirements at <https://davenportiowa.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=16863733>.

Fast Fact: The Davenport Fire Department does not fill pools.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

As a condition of the City's federal stormwater permit, the city has adopted and must enforce an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination ordinance pertaining to the storm sewer system.

Discharging chlorinated (or other chemically saturated) pool and spa water to a storm drain without following water quality recommendations is considered an illicit discharge, and regulated under the stormwater permit.

You could be fined.