

# SWIMMING POOL DISCHARGE 101

## Why is Pool Chlorine Regulated?

Chlorine is a common chemical used in residential and commercial swimming pools to help keep a beautiful Florida pool looking great. Swimming pools and spas benefit greatly from chlorine; however Florida's natural environment does not. Chlorine products pose a significant risk to the environment and, if used improperly, human health.

## The Do's and Don'ts of Pool Care

- ✗ **Don't:** Connect commercial pool overflows directly to the storm or sanitary sewer system.
- ✗ **Don't:** Allow pool discharge to flow onto beaches, paved areas, or into wetland areas.
- ✓ **Do:** Discharge only dechlorinated pool water. Let the chlorine dissipate by allowing the water to sit for one to two weeks. Also, dechlorination products can be found at most pool supply stores.
- ✓ **Do:** Fill residential pools less to allow for extra rainfall. If you leave the water level in your pool as low as possible, you'll avoid the need to drain excess water when it rains.
- ✓ **Do:** Prevent erosion by allowing your pool to drain onto grassy areas or to a dry well after dechlorination. This is a desirable alternative to discharging into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.
- ✓ **Do:** Ensure that your professional pool service is also aware of these requirements.

## Allowable Discharges

Manatee County Ordinance 00-02 prohibits most non-storm water discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. An exemption made for all is dechlorinated swimming pool discharges and chlorinated filter back flushing of residential swimming pools.

**For More Information Call:**

**Manatee County Environmental  
Management Department  
Water Quality Division  
(941)742-5980**

