



KEEP GROUNDWATER SAFE WHEN DRAINING POOLS, FOUNTAINS & SPAS

Although it is safe to enjoy pools, fountains and spas when their water is treated properly, that same water in our stormwater system can become hazardous for aquatic life and our environment. Chlorine, acid, algaecides and other water treatment chemicals should be handled, stored, used, and disposed of properly. Even the empty containers need proper cleaning (triple rinse after each use) before disposing.

When draining your pool, fountain or spa for the season, please follow these guidelines:

- Test a water sample and wait for chlorine levels to be close to zero
- Do not drain down a driveway or into a storm sewer
- Never drain into a stream, creek, pond or other natural water body
- Drain slowly to the lawn or other landscaped area of your property using a low-volume pump or siphon; draining slowly will allow any trace chemicals to dissipate and will prevent erosion
- Be aware of drainage patterns that may affect neighboring properties, especially steep slopes
- Winterize your pool by waiting for chlorine levels to be close to zero, draining your pool as described above and then adding your winter treatment chemicals. Draining first reduces the amount of chemicals needed and saves money. After draining, mix the chemicals in your pool by using a skimmer pole and brush attachment. If draining after chemicals are added, allow chemicals to mix in the pool for at least a few days before draining the water.

The bottom line: to keep our groundwater safe, all water drained from pools, fountains and spas should infiltrate into the ground rather than enter the storm sewer system. Be aware and follow through, and you can be an H2O Hero too! Find more info at <https://www.h2ohero.org/at-home?rq=pool>.

To learn more about reducing stormwater pollution, visit the Town's Stormwater Management webpage <http://www.townofpittsford.org/stormwater-management-info...> or the H2O Hero website www.h2ohero.org.