

## ***Why Are These Steps Required?***

These are recommendations made in order to protect our stormwater quality throughout the City limits.

These requirements fall under our NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit requirements for Pollution Prevention and Municipal Good Housekeeping.

Not following these requirements, will result in pollution of our local waterways. Unlike water treated by sanitary sewer operations, water that goes directly into storm sewers is not treated prior to entering the local waterway, i.e. creek/stream, lake or retention pond.

- This water eventually becomes our drinking water and the more polluted it is, the more expensive it is to treat causing your water utility bill to increase.
- Chlorine as well as other pollutants, directly enters the waters that are used for recreational purposes such as fishing, boating, swimming.
- Polluted water that directly enters the local waterways can kill fish and important vegetation in the water or along the banks. These nutrients and wildlife are vital to the survival of the local waterways.



For further questions regarding these requirements or other related stormwater inquiries, please contact:

### **City of O'Fallon**

Stormwater Management Coordinator  
100 N. Main St  
O'Fallon MO 63366

Phone: 636.240.2000  
E-mail: [stormwater@ofallon.mo.us](mailto:stormwater@ofallon.mo.us)

**City of O'Fallon**

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

## **POOL AND FILTER BACKWASH MAINTENANCE DISCHARGE GUIDE**



**TEL: 636.240.2000**

## Requirements for Draining Swimming Pools & Spas

### **FILTER BACKWASH WATER REQUIREMENTS**

- Backwashing is defined as the rinsing and/or cleaning of cartridge or sand filters. Filter backwashing produces water that may contain chlorine and/or pollutants.
- Filter backwash water may be discharged to the public sanitary sewer system after contacting your local Sanitary Sewer District.
- Filter backwash water may not be discharged offsite to streets or washes. It may be discharged onto the pool/spa owner's property as long as it can be absorbed into the ground.
- Do not allow filter backwash water to flow onto a neighboring property, street, or alley.



### **REQUIREMENTS FOR DRAINING SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS**

Draining swimming pools or spas usually involves a large volume of water with low chlorine levels. Acceptable procedures for emptying a pool or spa are as follow:

- A pool or spa may be emptied if the chlorine or bromine content is  $\leq 1$  part per million and free of other chemicals. This can be accomplished by letting pool water sit for at least 2 days after addition of any chemical. If chlorine, you can purchase dechlorination tablets. **Make Sure You Test Your Pool Prior To Draining.**
- The pH level of the water must be tested prior to discharge and must fall within a range of 7 to 8
- The water must not be cloudy or discolored and must be free of algae and contaminants
- Water may be drained off of the owner's property— provided it goes to a drainage channel, wash, or along the curb line gutter of a paved street; the water must be monitored to ensure that it does not cause any erosion of the drainage channels or washes; and
- Water may be used to irrigate vegetation on the owner's property.

### **DISCHARGES TO SANITARY SEWER**

Pool owners may discharge their pool water and filter backwash water to the sanitary sewer .

**Please be sure to contact your local Sanitary Sewer District before proceeding.**

There may be limitations on chlorine content or pH levels for discharges to the sanitary sewer. It is also acceptable to discharge to the sanitary sewer if the water is cloudy, discolored, or contains algae.

Discharging pool water to the sanitary sewer can add to the volume of treated effluent that can be turned into reclaimed water. Reclaimed water can be used as a potable water replacement for landscape watering, which helps to conserve drinking water resources.

