

# DRAINING A POOL

At the end of the season, it's time to drain your pool. But where do you put all that water? Because your pool water contains sanitizing chemicals like chlorine or salt, it is not safe to dump it down the storm sewer. If you do, those chemicals will end up in our streams and rivers, polluting the water, killing fish and other aquatic life. This factsheet describes good pool maintenance practices to use in order to protect water quality and enhance quality of life in the borough.



## Keep in Mind

- Only sanitary sewers take wastewater (including pool water) to a treatment facility. Discharging to a sanitary sewer is the preferred method.
- It is not just the water quality that is a concern — think about the sheer volume of water in your pool and how that could impact your neighbor, the sewer system, and the environment.
- The maximum pump rate is 50 gallons per minute (GPM). This will help prevent treatment plant overload and sewer back-up into your house.

## Pollution Prevention Techniques

- If your in-ground pool is not already connected to the sanitary sewer, or you have an above ground pool, contact Todd Kauffman from Lititz Borough at 717-626-2044 to get the OK to pump your pool water into the sanitary sewer. **This is the preferred disposal method.**
- If this is not an option, you may dispose of the water on your property. However, the water should only be released after you stop adding treatment chemicals and hold the water in the pool for at least one week while chlorine levels drop.
- Use a pool test kit to measure the chlorine level prior to draining to make sure levels are less than 0.1 mg/l free chlorine. A longer holding period may be necessary if the level is higher than that.
- If releasing the water on-site, do so in a manner that water will not flow off property or into a stream or storm sewer. Also be sure to keep the flow below the 50 GPM maximum pump rate.
- Also, do so in a manner that water will not pond for a prolonged period of time, creating mosquito breeding conditions and odor problems.