

What is Storm Water & How it Affects You.

Stormwater is simply water that falls onto the ground from rain or snow events. The water that does not soak into the ground is called stormwater runoff. As stormwater runs off lawns, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads, it can flow into our wetlands, streams, lakes, and the ocean and carry pollutants it picks up along the way. The pollutants include oil, grease, gasoline, lead & cadmium from the roads; pesticides, herbicides and animal waste from residential areas & farmlands; and dirt from construction sites, to name a few. Added to this list are items improperly disposed of into storm drains or on the ground.

All these contaminants end up in waterways, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and can impact shellfish beds, fish and animal habitat, recreational swimming, and even our drinking water.

To lessen pollution, we all need to do our part and change our habits. Your efforts along with your neighbors can make a difference.

JOHNSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY

Johnson County	317-346-4350
City of Franklin	317-346-1150
City of Greenwood	317-887-5230
Town of Bargersville	317-422-5115
Town of Whiteland	317-535-5531
Town of Edinburgh	812-526-3512
Town of New Whiteland	317-535-4664
Johnson County Solid Waste Management District	317-738-2546
Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District	317-736-9540



Draining Your Swimming Pool and Spa

It is against the law to drain swimming pool, spa, fountain or backwash water to a storm drain system.

Pool Water Pollutes— Dispose of it Properly



Did you know that you may be harming your local creek and river if you drain your swimming pool or spa water into the gutter? Water in pools and spas are treated with a variety of chemicals (such as chlorine and algaecides) to keep organisms from living in it, if that water is

discharged to a storm drain, it will eventually reach a creek or river where the chemicals can cause harm. It is illegal to discharge chlorinated swimming pool water or pool water that contains biocides or other chemicals to the storm drain system.

DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA

Using the sanitary sewer is best

If you need to drain your pool or spa, it is best to discharge the water to the sanitary sewer, since the sanitary sewer system is conveyed to a treatment plant where it is designed to remove most chemicals found in pools and spas. Your pool may have a permanent indirect connection to the sanitary sewer. If not, you can pump the water from the pool or spa into an interior laundry sink or other plumbing fixture or to a sewer cleanout (typically located in your front/or back yard).

Never open a manhole to discharge the water!

When discharging water to the sanitary sewer make sure the flow rates is slow enough that it does not cause the sewer to back up and overflow into your house, your neighbor's house or onto the street.

Lower Chemical Levels Before Draining

Allow chlorine levels to drop to zero before draining your pool. Do not add chemicals or disinfectants for one week prior to draining. Test your water before draining to determine chlorine, stabilizer, and TDS (total dissolved solids, usually salt) levels before draining you pool It is illegal to drain chlorine to a storm water system, a creek, or any waterbody either directly or indirectly.

Drain your pool onto your grass, preferably so the water drains to swales or rain gardens where the water can slowly percolate into the ground. Rain gardens are not recommended for pool water in which high levels of cyanuric acid (stabilizer), or salt exist (common with liquid and electronic generator use) unless you have salt tolerant species planted. As a last resort, in small yards or on severe slopes, contact your wastewater utility for information about discharge to the sanitary sewer.



Thiosulfate may be used to rid the water of chlorine if your stabilizer level is high. Chemical removing products may add contaminants to pool water, such as copper left from algaecides. No adequate way exists to disperse the silver and copper in the water that may result from the use of mineral systems. The best practice is to gradually drain your pool to a swale or rain garden over more than one day. Wait for dry conditions to avoid ponding or offsite runoff that will occur.

Disposing of Unwanted Pool Chemicals

Most unwanted pool chemicals must be disposed as hazardous waste. Pool owners can contact the agencies listed on the back panel to find out where to dispose of hazardous waste.

Cleaning Pool Filters

Don't clean pool filters where the debris or wastewater will go into a storm drain. Wastewater from filter cleaning may be discharged to the sanitary sewer as long as solids are removed. Pool filter backwash connections that are plumbed to the sanitary sewer system must include a settling tank to remove diatomaceous earth. If you are hosing off a filter with water, do so over a lawn, planter box or other vegetated or dirt area that will absorb the wash water. Collect materials (such as spent diatomaceous earth filter media) on a filter cloth placed over the discharge surface and then throw the filter cloth and filter media in the trash upon completion of filter cleaning.

Decking Cleaning

Sweep or blow your deck instead of using water. When water is necessary for cleaning, use flow control to minimize water usage. When using chlorine, acid, soap or chemical cleaners direct diluted wash waters to a grassy area. Concentrated cleaning agents cannot be discharged to the environment.