

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CHLORINATED WATER FROM SWIMMING POOLS & HOT TUBS



Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contain high levels of chlorine. Discharging chlorinated pool/spa water into streams, (or irrigation canals, ponds, etc.) is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. This fact sheet was developed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide you with information on management practices that will minimize the impact of chlorinated water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs. The following 'Best Management Practices' apply to water discharged from swimming pools and hot tubs:

1. The best option is to discharge chlorinated water from pools and hot tubs to the sanitary sewer (sewage treatment plant). Chlorinated water should not be discharged into storm sewers or surface waters. This is especially true for large pools such as community swimming pools.
2. When discharge to a sanitary sewer is not possible either because it is unavailable or not allowed, then chlorinated water from pools and hot tubs may be disposed on the ground or irrigated on your property under the following circumstances:
 - Prior to disposing or irrigating the water, shut off the chlorination system if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
 - Hold the water in the pool or hot tub for at least one week to reduce the chlorine level.
 - Discharge or irrigate the water in an area where the water will not flow into a stream or storm sewer.
 - Discharge or irrigate the water on your property and ensure that it does not flow off your property.
 - Discharge or irrigate the water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions). Nuisance conditions occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.
3. If discharge to a sanitary sewer or land irrigation of chlorinated water from pools or hot tubs is not feasible, the chlorinated water may still be discharged to the ground (where it may reach a stream, ditch, or storm sewer) under the following circumstances:
 - Prior to discharging the water, shut off the chlorination system if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
 - Hold the water in the pool or hot tub for at least two weeks to allow the chlorine to dissipate.
 - Measure the chlorine level in the pool or hot tub prior to discharging the water. The water should not show any detectable levels of chlorine because chlorine is harmful to fish and other aquatic life even at low concentrations. A longer holding period may be necessary if chlorine levels continue to remain at detectable levels at the end of two weeks. Chlorine measurements can be made with a chlorine test kit (colormetric).
 - Discharge the water so it does not flow over someone else's property.
 - Discharge the water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions). Nuisance conditions occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.

NOTE: Water from backflushing pool filters should not be discharged to a stream, ditch or storm sewer. Backflush from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, on-site septic tank and drainfield system (if properly designed and adequately sized), or a seepage pit.

For further information, please contact the DEQ regional office in your area (refer to map on back).

DEQ REGIONAL & WATER QUALITY BRANCH OFFICES

<p>NORTHWEST REGION: <i>(County)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Clatsop ◆ Columbia ◆ Tillamook ◆ Washington ◆ Multnomah ◆ Clackamas <p>WESTERN REGION: <i>(County)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Yamhill ◆ Polk ◆ Lincoln ◆ Benton ◆ Marion ◆ Linn ◆ Lane ◆ Douglas ◆ Coos ◆ Curry ◆ Josephine ◆ Jackson <p>EASTERN REGION: <i>(County)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hood River ◆ Wasco ◆ Sherman ◆ Gilliam ◆ Morrow ◆ Umatilla ◆ Union ◆ Wallowa ◆ Jefferson ◆ Wheeler ◆ Grant ◆ Baker ◆ Deschutes ◆ Crook ◆ Klamath ◆ Lake ◆ Harney ◆ Malheur 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Eugene Office: 1102 Lincoln St., #210 Eugene, OR 97401 Telephone: (541) 686-7838 FAX: (541) 686-7551</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Northwest Region Office: 2020 SW 4th Avenue, #400 Portland, OR 97201-5884 Telephone: (503) 229-5263 FAX: (503) 229-6945</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Salem Office: 750 Front Street NE, #120 Salem, OR 97310 Telephone: (503) 378-8240 FAX: (503) 373-7944</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Coos Bay Branch Office: 340 N Front Street Coos Bay, OR 97420 Telephone: (541) 269-2721 FAX: (541) 269-7984</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Roseburg Office: 725 SE Main Roseburg, OR 97470 Telephone: (541) 440-3338 FAX: (541) 440-3396</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Medford Office: 201 W Main Street, #2-D Medford, OR 97501 Telephone: (541) 776-6010 FAX: (541) 776-6262</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Bend Office: 2146 NE 4th, #104 Bend, OR 97701 Telephone: (541) 388-6146 FAX: (541) 388-8283</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Pendleton Office: 700 SE Emigrant, #330 Pendleton, OR 97801 Telephone: (541) 276-4063 FAX: (541) 278-0168</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">WH6008D.PPT</p>
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