



# Draining Pools and Spas

**The City of Mobile prohibits the discharge of chlorinated or salt water from pools or spas to the storm sewer (City Code 17-11).**

## Facts and Tips

- High salt content or chlorine levels are harmful to vegetation.
- Try not to create puddles of standing water, which can provide breeding ground for mosquitoes
- Consider using alternatives to copper or silver based algaecides, such as sodium bromide.
- Copper or silver algaecides can collect in pool filters; rinse cartridge filters or clean diatomaceous sand filters onto a dirt area and spade the residue into the soil.
- Chlorine is toxic to fish and other aquatic life at very low levels.

## CHLORINATED POOLS AND SPAS

### How to correctly discharge water from a pool or spa:

- Stop chemical addition 7 days before discharging.
- Remove leaves and other debris.
- Conduct a water analysis. Many pool supply companies offer complimentary water tests.
- It is acceptable to discharge water from a pool or spa to a storm drain when all of the following conditions are met:
  - \*Total Suspended Solids (TSS) < 60 mg/L
  - \*Chlorine < 0.1 ppm or 0.1 mg/L
  - \*pH 6.5—8.5
  - \*Water is clear (not murky).

OR

- Slowly discharge to your own lawn so water infiltrates and does not drain to the street, flow to a nearby stream, or damage a neighboring property.

OR

- Discharge from the pool to nearest sanitary drain inside your house. Never open sanitary manholes on roads. Limit size of the discharge hose from the pool to 4 cm (1.5 inches) or less in diameter to avoid drainage backup.

## SALT WATER POOLS AND SPAS

### How to correctly discharge water from your salt water pool or spa:

- Discharge from the pool to nearest sanitary drain inside your house. Never open sanitary manholes on roads. Limit size of the discharge hose from the pool to 4 cm (1.5 inches) or less in diameter to avoid drainage backup.

OR

- When salt < 1 ppt or 0.1%, slowly discharge to your own lawn so water infiltrates and does not drain to the street, flow to a nearby stream, or damage a neighboring property.

OR

- Discharge water from your pool or spa to a storm drain when salt < 1 ppt or 0.1% and conditions listed under CHLORINATED POOLS AND SPAS are met.