

# September

## Take the Plunge; Drain Your Pool Correctly!

By Jacquelyn Buck

This September, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality is reminding residents to make sure they are draining their pools and hot tubs correctly. And yes, there is a right and a wrong way to empty your pool!

Step one: Make sure that the chlorine levels are next to zero before removing any of the water from your pool. This chemical does wonders for your pool by helping to keep the water clean for your family and friends, but it is harmful to waterways. It will require you to stop adding in chemicals several days to a week before draining your pool to have .05mg/l chlorine left in the water. Important to note, [it is illegal to drain water containing chlorine down storm drains or into waterways.](#)

Step two: Choose where you want the water to go. Do you have a rain garden, swale, or a large lawn that you want to water? Do you need it to go away through pipes? This is completely your choice, but it is important to note that if you choose to release the water onto your property, it should not leave your property! Meaning, if you are draining your pool into your lawn or garden the water should not flow onto your neighbor's property or out into roadways.



If you choose to release the water on your property, here are some things to think about. If you release the entirety of your pool at once, will the ground be able to absorb it quickly enough that it does not head to your neighbors? Are there any depressions in your lawn that the water will likely pool in? Instead of doing it all at once, maybe choose to do it in phases. This will allow the ground time to absorb the water so that you are a good neighbor!

If you choose to release the water into a municipality's care, make sure you are choosing the right piping and [make sure to get proper approval.](#) Remember, storm drains go straight to the rivers, avoid using them unless water is under .05 mg/l. If you are choosing to discharge through storm sewers, then one must gain the appropriate approval. [Sanitary sewers will take your water to the sanitation facility,](#) making them the right choice if you are hesitant about the chemical concentration left in your pool water!

Doing the right thing for water quality is easy, so take the plunge and drain your pool correctly this season!