

Fact Sheet

Discharging Swimming Pool Water

County of Maui, Hawaii



Chlorine can harm or kill aquatic marine life, including fish and invertebrates. Discharge of chlorinated swimming pool water is harmful. Here are some tips on properly disposing of water from freshwater and saltwater swimming pools:

Dechlorinate:

All swimming pool water must be dechlorinated to a concentration of chlorine less than 0.01 parts per million (ppm), equal to 10 parts per billion (ppb), prior to discharge. Dechlorination may be conducted by the home owner, property manager, or contractor. Options include:

- Natural dechlorination will occur over time and chlorine will dissipate when exposed to the air and sunlight. This process can take a couple of days to weeks, depending on a variety of factors, including pool size. Do not add chlorine and keep pool pump running.
- Chemical dechlorination using a chlorine neutralizer such as sodium thiosulphate, sulfur dioxide, or sulfite salts. These come in liquid, tablet, or granular form and are available at pool supply stores. Use minimum amount recommended by the manufacturer, and monitor dechlorination with test kits.
- Environmental friendly option includes use of Vitamin C powder in two forms; ascorbic acid or sodium ascorbate. This is non-hazardous and more expensive than other chemical methods, and may take longer to reach acceptable discharge levels. May be available locally.

Determine when the chlorine level has reached 0.01 ppm or less using a proper pool chemical test kit, which can be found online or at local pool supply stores:

- Low-range chlorine strips are easy to use and reasonably priced. The paper strips are dipped approximately 18 inches below the water's surface and compared to the color standard.
- PDP test kits may also be used by collecting pool water about 18 inches below the surface, adding a reagent to the vial, and comparing it to the color standard.

Discharge using proper practices to prevent safety and environmental hazards:

- Reuse the water as irrigation for landscaped areas on the property. No flooding, ponding, or soil erosion may occur. If these hazards are observed, stop the discharge immediately.
- Discharge into the County's storm drainage system. Discharge only during dry weather and daylight hours. Pump the discharge directly into the storm drain. Do not allow water to flow down the street, flood the drain inlet, or flow across bare soil. Do not discharge heated water.
- Discharge to County Sanitary Sewer is not permitted by the County Department of Environmental Management.
- Discharge to non-County storm drains (State or private) may require permission of the system owner.