

Guidelines for Disposing of Swimming and Spa Pool Water

Background

Swimming and spa pool water can contain chemicals such as chlorine and copper. These chemicals 'treat' the water to kill harmful bacteria and/or algae. If this treated water is discharged into stormwater systems or streams, it has the potential to harm, even kill, fish and other aquatic life.

The following are guidelines for disposing swimming and spa pool water correctly.

By following them you can be sure of playing your part to protect the district's waterway and harbour environments.

Guidelines

- Filtered backwash water must not be discharged into the stormwater system. If your property is connected to the sewer you should discharge swimming and spa pool water to the sewer via appropriate plumbing. If your property is not connected to the sewer, you will need to consider suitable land disposal or soakage (please phone Council for specific information on these options).
- Pool overflow water should, wherever possible, be discharged onto land or surface soakage.
- It is vital that you maintain the proper chemical balance and filtration in your pool year round. If you do, you will not have to drain your pool so often. Also, before using copper algaecides, try using less toxic alternatives. Only use copper if other products don't work.
- Wherever possible use Council's wastewater sewer when draining your pool. The sewer conveys wastewater to a treatment plant which is designed to remove many pollutants from water. Draining should be done via pool plumbing, a gully trap or sink at 5 litres per second or less. It's important to note that if you need to discharge at a higher rate, you will need to obtain approval from Council.

The best alternative to sewer disposal is irrigation onto your property under the following conditions:

- Check that no land instability problems (slip, erosion) exist in your immediate area. If they do exist don't use this disposal method.
- Leave the water to sit for one week without the addition of chemicals.
- Discharge or irrigate the water so it will not flow into the stormwater system or natural watercourses.
- Ensure the water does not flow off your property onto neighbouring properties.
- Discharge or irrigate the water so that it won't create 'nuisance conditions' such as mosquito breeding.
- Make sure the water temperature is below 25° Celsius.