



Stormwater Management in Summit County, UT

Pool and Spa Water Discharge

DID YOU KNOW?

the storm drain \neq the sewer

The storm drain system is separate from the sanitary sewer system. Water that enters our storm water system empties directly into our streams and creeks with no treatment.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Water from pools and hot tubs contain chlorine and other chemicals that can harm the environment. It can contaminate groundwater as well as enter storm drains and impact our surface waters.

The State of Utah Division of Water Quality does not allow Summit County residents to discharge pools or hot tubs/spas into the storm drain unless the water has been dechlorinated. However, they can be discharged directly into the sanitary sewer— this is the preferred method by the DEQ. It is a violation of federal regulation to discharge chlorinated water, and can carry heavy penalties from the EPA, State, and the County if it is discharged directly into the storm drain (without de-chlorination).

If no access to the sanitary sewer:

- ◇ Dechlorinated water may be discharged slowly to a vegetated landscape (avoiding runoff).
- ◇ Dechlorinated water is an allowable discharge to the storm drain system in Summit County.
- ◇ If it is a slow draining hot tub and no cleanout is available, you can drain into your kitchen sink or bathtub as long as you monitor to make sure it doesn't overflow.
- ◇ Contact Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District to access a sewer manhole and drain into that.
- ◇ Discharge of non-backwash water can be used for irrigation as long as the chlorine and bromine levels are less than 1 parts per million, and the water is not flowing offsite into a storm drain.

Dechlorination of pool and spa water:

1. Stop adding chlorine and/or shut off chlorine system.
2. Leave water in pool/spa for a week or more to allow chlorine to dissipate.
3. Measure chlorine levels to ensure there are no detectable levels of chlorine present.
4. Measure the pH to ensure it is between 6.5-9.0 (using chlorine and pH test strips).
5. When you are ready to discharge:
 6. Discharge slowly to prevent soil erosion (especially on a slope).
 7. Ensure water does not contain solids by skimming them out before discharging.
 8. Ensure water doesn't flow onto someone else's property.

*Note: pool filter back-flush and salt pools can **only** be discharged into sanitary sewers/septic systems.*

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