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SWIMMING POOL GUIDELINES

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Regional Office
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Norristown, PA 19401**

The discharge of any sewage or industrial waste, including swimming pool water to a water of the Commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law, the Act of June 22, 1937 P.L. 1987, as amended.

It has been the Department's policy not to require permits for discharges from single residence pools provided the guidelines outlined below are followed. Local municipalities should be contacted concerning local ordinances.

These guidelines shall not be construed so as to waive or impair any rights of the Department of Environmental Protection to prosecute the property (pool) owner and/or pool company for any stream damage that occurs as a result of the discharge. Penalties would be assessed under the provisions of the Clean Streams Law.

Pool Guidelines:

A. Disposal of Water to Sanitary Sewer

1. If the municipal authority grants permission, discharging of pool backwash water, neutralized pool cleaning wastewater and standing water to the sanitary sewer system is the best environmental alternative. Care should be taken in making sure the discharge is to a sanitary sewer and not a storm sewer which would discharge to a stream. If sanitary sewers are not in the immediate area, the water should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

B. Discharge of Water

1. The following guidelines must be followed if water is not pumped or hauled to a sanitary sewer. Water should be pumped over a grassy area to allow absorption, filtration and aeration of water. The discharge should be at a rate which prevents erosion and optimizes infiltration. In no event shall pool waters be directly discharged to waters of the Commonwealth.
 - a. Standing water or accumulated rain and/or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top so as not to disturb settled solids. Solids on the pool bottom should not be discharged. Following pump down of water, solids should be cleaned out manually. The discharge should not raise instream temperatures by more than 2 degrees F in a one hour period or a total of 5 degrees