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Managing your swimming pool and hot tub water properly:

Chlorinated water is among the many concerns that we have about our stormwater systems impacting our local streams in the Walnut Creek and Blacklick Creek Watersheds. While we can easily see the stormwater impacts of pollutants like oil, paint, antifreeze, etc., chlorine is invisible. Chlorine can impact the highly sensitive gills of fish and can ultimately suffocate them along with other macroinvertebrates in our streams and creeks.

The preferred ways to address chlorinated water in pools and hot tubs include a couple of approaches:

1. Stop adding chlorine and allow the water to set for around 10 days. Before discharging your water, use your pool water test kits to identify that they are at “no detectable levels”. It is also encouraged to check the pH and make sure it’s between 6.5 and 9.0 before releasing it slowly to a storm sewer.

- 💧 **If a storm sewer is not available**, a slow release of the dechlorinated water across a well stabilized (grassed) area does not impact the surrounding area negatively (flooding a neighbor’s yard or a public roadway).

- 💧 **If you have a saltwater pool**, the salt activator that converts the salt to chlorine needs to be shut off.

- 💧 **If you use a Chlorine Eliminator (sodium thiosulfate)**, your testing should indicate “no detectable levels” before discharging the water slowly. Remember the “label is the law” when using chemical products.



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2. **If it is absolutely necessary, the use of a sanitary sewer system to discharge the chlorinated water may be considered.** Please contact the local sanitary sewer service provider before doing so for any rules or fees associated with it.

3. A licensed septic hauler may be another option if needed. **If you are on a lot with a septic system or leach field, don't discharge water into your tank or across your field.** Doing so may cause the system to be overwhelmed with water, leading to other unintended environmental concerns.