TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Swimming Pool Application Checklist

Property Address: __________________________________________________________

Contractor: _____________________________________________________________

1. Plot plan (2 sets)
   
   (____) Drawn and sealed by a Pennsylvania registered surveyor, engineer, or architect
   (____) Scale 1” – 20’
   (____) lot number and address
   (____) north arrow
   (____) dimension of lot to the nearest hundredth of a foot
   (____) list of zoning requirements for district
   (____) existing and proposed impervious surface (square footage of each and percentage of
   net lot area). Break it down as existing and then proposed
   - i.e. Existing: House 3000          Proposed: Pool 650
     - Driveway 1500
     - Garage 600
     - Shed 100
     - Patio, decks_ 535
     TOTAL 5735
   - Deck & coping 175
   - Driveway 1500
     - Porch 175
   TOTAL 825
   (24.7%)
   (____) dimension of front, rear and side yards, and location of principal structure
   (____) location and dimension of garage, carport and other accessory buildings
   (____) location of walks, driveways and approaches
   (____) location of steps, terraces, porches, fences and retaining walls
   (____) location and dimension of easements and zoning setback requirements
   (____) Showing size and location of pool, filtering equipment and proposed enclosure or fence
   elevations at the following points:
     (____) finish grade at each corner of pool
     (____) finish grade at each corner of property
     (____) finish grade at both sides of any retaining wall
     (____) existing and proposed contours at two foot intervals
   (____) location of any floodplain or stream crossing
   (____) location, size, material and slope of any existing or proposed drainage pipe facilities
   (____) location and size of sewer lateral
   (____) location of any proposed or existing septic tank, distribution box, absorption field,
     seepage pit and other essential parts of sewage disposal system. This area must be
     fenced off and protected from any disturbance
   (____) location of any well or utility lines
   (____) calculations and design for on-site retention facility
   (____) location and size of retention facility
   (____) indicate any steep slopes 25% or greater
   (____) Indicate flow of storm water
   (____) indicate construction access
   (____) retaining walls over 4 feet require an engineer’s seal with supporting calculations and
     separate Lower Merion Township approval.
   (____) any additional information which may be called for after review by the Township
   Engineer
2. (___) Detailed and cross-section of proposed pool design including:
   (___) location of drains - show distance between drains
   (___) steel size and location

3 (___) Sealed Piping plan
   (___) size of the pipes
   (___) location of the pipes
   (___) calculate flow
   (___) velocity of water
       Gallon per minute
   (___) pump size
       Horse power or RPMs – specify maximum
   (___) calculate total dynamic head
       Need flow rate
   (___) distance

4. (___) Drain Covers specs

5. **PERMITS APPLICATIONS** (forms attached)
   (___) Residential permit for swimming pool (check #54 on form)
   (___) HVAC permit application if a pool heater is proposed
   (___) Electrical permit for pool wiring

   The pool permit will not be issued until the electrical permit has been submitted.

   **NOTE:**
   If the increase in impervious surface and/or earth disturbance is more than 1,000 square feet but less than 1,500 square feet a [Minor Grading Permit] is required. If the increase in impervious surface and/or earth disturbance is more than 1,500 square feet a [Runoff and Erosion Control permit] is required.

6. (___) **SUBCONTRACTOR LISTS** (form attached)
   The name, address and phone number for all subcontractors must be supplied to this department.

   **ALL SUBCONTRACTORS MUST BE LICENSED WITH LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP and/or registered with the state PRIOR TO START OF WORK**

7. (___) **FENCE ADDENDUM**
   Form must be completed in full.

Changes to original plan or subcontractors must be submitted immediately to Township.

The pool company and/or contractor, as the permit holder, is ultimately responsible for compliance with Township regulations for all work performed under the permit.

___________________________________________  ______________________________
Contractor’s Name          Date

T:\Pool\SwimmingPoolApplicationChecklist 4/2019
**Lower Merion Township**

75 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003-2376

**SWIMMING POOL / SPA PERMIT APPLICATION**

ADDRESS: __________________________________________ Town:________________________________________

FLOOR:___________________________________________STE. NO.:__________________________________________

TENANT:___________________________________________________________________________________________

75 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003 - 2376

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:

- New Swimming Pool
- Pool Renovation
- Pool Fence
- New Spa
- Spa Renovation
- Other

PERMIT NO.: ____________________________________________PLAN NO.:_________________________________

* COST MUST MATCH SIGNED CONTRACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>Contractor’s Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>HVAC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ELECTRIC, PLUMBING & HVAC WORK REQUIRES SEPARATE PERMITS! Working without the proper permits may result in a Stop Work Order & fines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MAILING ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OWNER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRACTOR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIBE, IN DETAIL, THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

DO NOT WRITE BELOW LINE. OFFICE USE.

- Land Subdivision Agreement
- Historic
- Multi-Unit Property
- Preservation Area
- Floodplain
- Stop Work Order
- Storm Easement
- Sanitary Easement
- Stormwater Management System
- Uniform Building Line Ordinance
- Rock Hill Road Transportation
- City Ave Special Services District
rafted and cross section of proposed pool design including:

- Location of drains—show distance between drains
- Steel size and location

- Sealed Piping Plan
  - Size of Pipes
  - Location of the Pipes
  - Calculate Flow
  - Velocity of Water
  - Pump Size
  - Calculate Total Dynamic Head

- Drain Covers

Missing anything else? ____________________________________________________________

Date: ___________________________  Initials: __________________________
POOL FENCES & GATES

All pool fences & gates must be installed in accordance with the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. *Please take special note to section 305.

305.2.5 Closely spaced horizontal members. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal member is less than 45 inches (1143), the horizontal members shall be located on the pool or spa side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches (44 mm) in width.

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.

305.3.1 Utility or service gates. Gates not intended for pedestrian use, such as utility or service gates, shall remain locked when not in use.

305.3.2 Double or multiple gates. Double gates or multiple gates shall have at least one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The gate and barrier shall not have openings larger than ½ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch release mechanism. The self-latching device shall comply with the requirements of Section 305.3.3.

305.3.3 Latches. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool or spa side of the gate not less than 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall not have openings greater than ½ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

305.4 Structure wall as a barrier. Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required:

1. Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches above the indoor finished floor and doors shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm …
2. A safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F 1346 is installed for the pools and spas.
3. An approved means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.

Fence & Entrapment Protection Addendum to Pool Permit Application
To be complete and submitted with the pool permit application

PROPERTY ADDRESS:___________________________________________________________

PROPERTY OWNER(S):__________________________________________________________

All pool fences and gates must be installed in accordance with the building code adopted by Lower Merion Township. Pools must be enclosed by a fence a minimum of 4’ in height above the proposed grade. The maximum size of any opening in the fence is 4 inches.

1. Who is installing the fence? Owner______ Pool Company_____ Fence Company_____  
   Fence Company’s Name _______________________________ Phone# __________________

2. Type of fence being installed (stockade, shadow box, etc): __________________________

3. Height of the fence (minimum of 48”): _________________________________

4. Number of gates being installed? _________________________________

5. Will gates open outwards away from the pool? _________________________________

6. Will the gates be self-closing and self-latching? _________________________________

7. Height of the locking mechanism: _________________________________

“Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate: (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least three (3) inches below the top of the gate; and (b) the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism”.


8. Is the house part of the barrier to the pool? ____________________________

If yes, which one of the following is proposed for this property: ____________________

A. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened.

B. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches above the floor. Swinging doors shall open away from the pool area.

C. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover. Where in a closed position, the cover shall be capable of holding a weight according to ASTM 1346, shall not have any openings that allow passage of a 4 inch sphere and shall incorporate a system to drain standing water that collects on the cover.

9. Is any part of the fence an existing fence? __________. Does it comply with Lower Merion Township Building Code? __________.

10. Is any part of the existing fence located on an adjacent property? __________.

If yes, approval to move forward with the pool installation will not be granted until the Township receives a letter from the adjacent property owner stating that they will be responsible for the continued maintenance of the fence as long as the pool remains on the adjacent property and that any future owner(s) of the adjacent property will be bound by this agreement. If the adjoining fence is removed at any time in the future, new fencing must be installed on the pool owner’s property in order to ensure public safety.

The fence and alarm (if applicable) must be installed prior to the pool, spa, etc being filled with water. An inspector from Lower Merion Township’s Building Division must approve the installation of the fence and alarm prior to filling the pool with water.

BELOW INFORMATION IS FOR NEW INSTALLATION OR RENOVATION OF SWIMMING POOLS.

2015 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code

Entrapment Protection

*SUCTION ENTRAPMENT AVOIDANCE FOR POOLS & SPAS SHALL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APSP 7*

- Is suction outlet provided with a cover? __________
- Is an atmospheric vacuum relief system provided? __________
- Which of the two will be provided?
- Safety vacuum release system __________
- An approved gravity drainage system __________
- Are a minimum of two (2) suction outlets provided? __________
- Are they at least three (3) feet apart? __________

2015 ENERGY CODE

- Does pool heater have a required accessible on-off switch to shut off heater without adjusting the thermostat setting? __________
- If heater is natural gas fired, a continuously burning pilot light is not permitted. Does the pool heater comply? __________
- A time switch that can automatically turn on and off heaters and pumps according to a preset schedule are required. Will a time switch be installed? __________
- Heated pools require a pool cover. Will there be a cover? __________

Pool Company (if applicable) ________________________________________________

Applicant Signature __________________________ Date: _______________________
Subcontractors List
Pools

Property Address: ______________________________________________________________

Contractor/builder: ______________________________________________________________

Office Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________

SUBCONTRACTORS

EXCAVATOR: ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Pennsylvania State HIC/Registration#: _______________ Expiration Date: _______________

MASONRY: ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Pennsylvania State HIC/Registration#: _______________ Expiration Date: _______________

DECKING ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Pennsylvania State HIC/Registration#: _______________ Expiration date: _______________

PLUMBER ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Must be licensed with Lower Merion Township

OTHER ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Pennsylvania State HIC/Registration#: _______________ Expiration date: _______________

OTHER ______________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
City, _________________________ St________ Zip_______________
Phone#: __________________________ Cell#: __________________________
Pennsylvania State HIC/Registration#: _______________ Expiration date: _______________
Finding the Maximum Flow Rate of an Existing System

**Preparation:**
1. Open all valves to their full open position for pool or spa circulation. (For secured systems, do not adjust valves.)
2. Remove eyeball fittings from return inlets (when removable by hand).
3. Clean skimmer and pump baskets. Turn off skimmer to isolate outlet, if possible.
4. Backwash or clean sand filter/DE grids, or remove cartridge.

When inspecting existing installations, the maximum possible flow rate of suction system must be determined as explained in 4.4.9.*

**Pump Method 1:** Measure flow rate with a flow meter accurate to ±10% (see Section 4.4.9).*

**Pump Method 2:** Calculate using pressure and vacuum gauge readings (see diagram below).
1. Install a vacuum gauge as close to the bottom of the strainer basket as possible.
2. Install a pressure gauge as close to the pump discharge as possible.
   **NOTE:** It may be necessary to use a National Pipe Thread (NPT) × barb fitting with a short section of plastic tubing connected to a gauge if gauges cannot be screwed into drain holes provided in pump.
3. Multiply vacuum reading by 1.13 and record.
4. Multiply pressure reading by 2.31 and record.
5. Add results of steps 3 and 4 together to get the approximate Total Dynamic Head (TDH) in feet of head.
6. Using the published curve for the pump, find the Total Dynamic Head calculated above on the vertical axis, and read the flow rate on the horizontal axis.
7. This will give you the maximum flow rate within approx. 10%.

**Gravity Flow Calculation**

Flow \( (\text{gpm}) = \sqrt{\frac{1786 \times (D \text{ (inch)})^2 \times H \text{ (inch)}}{L \text{ (inch)} + (55 \times D \text{ (inch)})}} \)  
(Where 55 D accounts for energy loss of stream)

**EXAMPLE:** Gravity flow through 2" IPS Schedule 40 PVC pipe with an inside diameter of 2.067" with 32.0 feet of pipe and 2 elbows of equivalent length of 6.0 feet. The top of the pipe opening into the collector tank is 8" below water level.

Flow \( (\text{gpm}) = \sqrt{\frac{1786 \times (2.067)^2 \times 8}{32 + (2 \times 6) \times 12 + (55 \times 2.067)}} = 29 \text{ gpm} \)

**Cover/Grate Audit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Pump</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pool Volume</td>
<td>Gallons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filter</td>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>Model Size (in. FL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Cover</td>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure</td>
<td>PSI</td>
<td>Vacuum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.D.H</td>
<td>Feet of water</td>
<td>System Flow (gpm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Flow</td>
<td>GPM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Cover</td>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement Date</td>
<td>/ /</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Drawdown</td>
<td>(calculated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured</td>
<td>Measured</td>
<td>Measured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Check cover manufacturer’s installation instructions for the following items per ANSI/APSP.16.**

- [ ] Cover compatible with sump
- [ ] Attachments (hardware/screws)
- [ ] Field fabricated sump as specified by cover manufacturer

---

**ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013**


This Appendix is not part of the American National Standard ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013 but is included for information only. Additional copies of the ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 standard and this Appendix can be purchased by contacting APSP Member Services at 703.838.0083, ext. 301.

**Introduction**

This field checklist for identifying suction entrapment hazards provides information and a systematic process that will help identify and eliminate suction entrapment hazards in swimming pools, wading pools, spas, hot tubs, and catch basins. This information and system is intended to address the hazards of hair entrapment, limb entrapment, body suction entrapment, evisceration/disembowelment, and mechanical entrapment. It does not replace or supersede the information in the body of the ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 standard. These guidelines are intended for use in inspecting, maintaining, and upgrading residential and public swimming pools, wading pools, spas, hot tubs, and catch basins. They are appropriate for use by service companies, builders, installers, facility owners/operators, home inspection specialists, parks and recreation personnel, and others who are responsible for pool and spa safety.

Reference numbers next to each block are used to facilitate telephone discussion. Mark the tracking boxes with an × to clearly document the current condition and actions needed and/or taken.

**DANGER:** To avoid serious injury or death, close the pool or spa bathers if any suction outlet cover/grate is missing, broken or ineffective.

---

**EVALUATION / ACTIONS TAKEN**

---

**Company**

- [ ] Pool
- [ ] Pump System
  - [ ] www.
  - [ ] Address
  - [ ] City
  - [ ] State Zip
  - [ ] State Zip
  - [ ] Date Phone
  - [ ] Date Phone
  - [ ] Inspected by
  - [ ] Owner/Operator

---

**Inspector** (Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

---

**Owner/Operator** (Print Name) (Signature) (Date)

---

The provisions described herein are not intended to prevent the use of any alternative configuration or system, provided any such alternative meets the intent and requirements of these Guidelines.

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©2013 The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals
**LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP**  
**SWIMMING POOL INSPECTION SCHEDULE**

This schedule is an aid for the builder and township official. Inspections are not necessarily limited to those listed below.

*Construction noise is regulated prior to 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.*

**FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOUR NOTICE**
required for each of the following required inspection. Inspections will be made only when the following items have been completed.

| TREE PROTECTION; EROSION CONTROL; SEPTIC SYSTEM; & STAKE OUT | Tree protection and erosion control measures (filter, fabric, tire scrubber, etc) must be inspected and approved by Township Inspector and/or the Township Engineer prior to the start of any excavation. Tree protection and erosion control measurers must be maintained until the site is stabilized. Excavated soil must be removed from this site, unless allowed by issuance of a grading permit. If the property is serviced by an On-site septic system the septic tank area, distribution box, absorption field area seepage pit and other essential parts of the sewage disposal must be fenced off. Stake site with proposed pool, spa and pool equipment location. Inspected by Township Inspector. |
| STEEL BONDING; DRAIN LOCATION; PIPE SIZE, VELOCITY | Equipment in place, temporary fence around site, conveyance piping installed, two drain outlets a minimum of 3’ apart; bond inspection of the equipotential bonding grid under walkway surrounding pool inspected by Township Inspector, Pool cover rough box inspection of steel bonding, luminaries housing, ladders, diving boards, equipotential bonding of pool deck etc by electrical underwriter. |
| PERMANENT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY | 1. After basin has been excavated to the approved size in approved location. 2. Conveyance and distribution piping installed and stone placed in excavation (before covering) Inspected by Township Inspector or the Township Engineer if a grading permit was issued. |
| ROUGH WIRE | Electric underwriter to inspection rough wire, trench inspection of underground electric serving the pumps and equipment. |
| FENCING; DOOR ALARMS | PRIOR TO PLASTERING THE POOL an inspection must be performed by Township Inspector to verify that the PERMANENT FENCE has been installed If the dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier to the pool one of the following is in place: . 1. All doors with direct access to pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm… 2. all doors with direct access to pool through that wall shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device at 54”…. 3. pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover…See 2015 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code. |
| ELECTRICAL WIRING | Electrical underwriters to test all lighting, GFCI operation, and final bonding to all motors, filters, pool heater and cover of cabinets. |
| DECK BONDING, FINAL ELECTRIC; FINAL CO ISSUED | Site stabilized; suction outlets provided with approved covers; heater equipped with a relief valve; heated pools equipped with pool cover; safety vacuum release system conforming to approved gravity drainage system. Two or more suction outlets, a minimum horizontal or vertical distance of 3’ separating outlets. Inspected by Township Inspector. All electrical 3rd party inspection cards in possession of Township. |
Swimming pool owners must adhere to both local and state requirements for draining and cleaning of swimming pools.

The discharge of swimming pool water into a water of the Commonwealth without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law, Act of June 22, 1937, P.L. 1987 as amended. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources policy does not require a permit to drain your pool if the following Departments’ guidelines are followed:

1. The pool water and backwash may **not** be drained into the **sanitary sewer**.

2. The pool water and backwash may **not** be drained **directly** into Township **stream, other water bodies** or **storm sewers**.

3. Pool water and water used to clean pools must be neutralized before the water may be drained onto any property. (Check with your pool service company for information on materials used in neutralizing pool water).

4. Neutralized pool water can be discharged over a grassy area to allow absorption, filtration and aeration of the water. The discharge should be at a slow enough rate so as to prevent erosion and optimize infiltration.

5. Before pool water is drained onto adjacent properties, the owner must first receive approval from the adjacent property owner.

Pool service companies are aware of these prerequisites and must take the proper precautions when cleaning and draining pools. Pool owners should ensure that their pool service company complies with these requirements.

Questions regarding the handling of pool wastewater may be directed to the Water Management Program in DEP’s Southeast Regional Office at (484) 250-5970.

For more information on how chemicals in stormwater can impact our streams and lakes, visit DEP’s Website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), Keyword: “Stormwater.”
MANAGEMENT OF SWIMMING POOL, HOT TUB, AND SPA WATER DISCHARGES

This fact sheet addresses the discharge of water from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas that are disinfected using chlorine, bromine, or “salt water disinfection,” and that also may contain residual amounts of other treatment chemicals including algaeceids. Servicing of a pool, hot tub, or spa often involves discharging all or a portion of the water or backwash water from filters, both of which may contain residual chlorine at levels that could be damaging to the environment. As such, these waters may be considered “polluted” (i.e., “wastewater”), and must be managed to protect public health and to prevent pollution to waters of the commonwealth such as rivers, streams, lakes, and including storm sewers. The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe acceptable methods of managing discharges from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas to avoid causing pollution. Pool, hot tub, and spa water should not be allowed to directly or indirectly discharge to waters of the commonwealth, including storm sewers.

What substances in pools, hot tubs, or spas could cause pollution?

Chlorine and/or other disinfectants are typically added in sufficient amounts to kill potentially harmful bacteria. These disinfectants also react with other organic matter such as dirt, sweat, skin cells, leaves, and organisms creating potentially harmful disinfection byproducts. Other contaminants are added from the users, such as oil and grease from natural body oils and applied lotions and sunscreens. Chemicals commonly used in maintaining these systems, such as salt, borax, algaeceids, phenols, caustic, and acid solutions, can be deadly to fish and other aquatic life. Backwashing of pool filters also contributes accumulated debris. All of these chemicals and materials have the potential to cause pollution and adversely affect public health and waters of the commonwealth.

What are acceptable methods for managing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa waters?

The best approach for managing these wastewaters is disposed into a public sewer system or at a sewage treatment facility, with authorization of the sewer system owner. A permit is generally not necessary to reuse or recycle pool wastewaters, but approval from the owner of a sewer system or sewage treatment facility is typically required. Some municipalities have enacted additional requirements related to discharges from pools. Contact your municipality if you're unsure whether additional guidelines exist.

What if no public sewer is available?

The wastewater can be drained and allowed to infiltrate into a vegetated area or used for on-site irrigation after these guidelines are met:

1. Shut off the chlorination/chemical feed system if there is one, or stop adding chlorine and chemicals.
2. Shut off the heating system, if there is one.
3. Hold the water in the pool or hot tub to reduce the chlorine level to 0.5 mg/L or less (if applicable), and the temperature to an acceptable level (generally within 10° F of the air temperature).
4. Test frequently – the water may need to be held for 10 days or more depending on the surrounding conditions. Recirculating the water may help to speed up this process.
5. Adjust the pH, if necessary, to between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units.
6. Never drain the pool on a rainy day or if the soil is saturated.

When discharging on-site for infiltration or using the water for irrigation, ensure that:

- The water will not flow into a storm sewer or other water of the commonwealth.
- The water does not run off the property.
- Nuisances such as prolonged ponding, odors, and mosquito breeding conditions are prevented.
- The flow rate is slow enough to allow infiltration and does not cause erosion.
- Solids are captured by attaching a filter bag to the end of the discharge hose, if needed.
May water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be discharged to onlot septic systems?
No, pool water should not be discharged into or on the surface of onlot systems because the system is not designed for the additional flow and the contaminants could impact the operation.

May chemicals (e.g., strong acids or caustics) be used to clean my pool, hot tub, or spa?
Yes, as long as the wastewater is captured or collected, properly treated and disposed of, and prevented from entering waters of the commonwealth, including storm sewers.

How should wastewater from cleaning my pool be handled, properly treated and disposed of?
Cleaning wastewaters that contain acid, caustics, or chlorine rinses used to clean pool surfaces should be treated prior to discharge. All wastewaters, but especially cleaning wastewater, must be neutralized to a pH between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units. Chlorine rinses can be dechlorinated or should stand for a period of 10 days to allow chlorine degradation to a residual of 0.5 mg/L or less prior to discharge.

Any pool wastewaters that have unnatural cloudiness, color, oil film, solids, foam, debris, vegetation, algae, or are not or cannot be properly treated, should be collected and hauled to a treatment facility in accordance with the facility’s guidelines.

What should be done with standing water that has accumulated in a pool?
Standing water, accumulated rainfall, or pool water from the previous season should be pumped from the top, but only if the chlorine residual and pH values are acceptable, to avoid disturbing solids on the pool bottom, which should not be discharged. After the water has been pumped, manually clean out the solids.

Could someone who causes pollution by discharging water from swimming pools, hot tubs, or spas be penalized?
If DEP determines that the management of swimming pool, hot tub, and spa wastewaters has caused pollution to waters of the commonwealth, the responsible party could be liable for civil penalties up to $10,000 per day under the Clean Streams Law.

For questions and additional information, contact the Clean Water Program in DEP’s regional offices:

Northwest Regional Office
230 Chestnut St.
Meadville, PA 16335-3481
Main Telephone: 814-332-6945
24-Hour Emergency: 800-373-3398
Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren

Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Main Telephone: 412-442-4000
24-Hour Emergency: 412-442-4000
Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland

North-central Regional Office
208 W. Third St., Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701-6448
Main Telephone: 570-327-3636
24-Hour Emergency: 570-327-3636
Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union

South-central Regional Office
909 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Main Telephone: 717-705-4700
24-Hour Emergency: 866-825-0208
Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York

Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915
Main Telephone: 570-826-2511
24-Hour Emergency: 570-826-2511
Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming

Southeast Regional Office
2 East Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401-4915
Main Telephone: 484-250-5900
24-Hour Emergency: 484-250-5900
Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia

For more information, visit www.dep.pa.gov.
Special Meter Registration

Account #: _____________________________
Type of System: _________________________
Number of Meters: _______________________
Water Meter #: _________________________
Name: _________________________________
Property Address: _______________________
Mailing Address: _________________________
City, State, Zip: _________________________
Phone #: ______________________________
Meter & Size: __________________________
Serial #: ______________________________
Install Date: ___________________________
Initial Reading: _________________________
Today's Date: __________________________
Today's Reading: _________________________

Office use only:
_____ Added to Account Master
_____ Added to Special Meter spreadsheet
_____ Added to Sewer database
_____ New Card
_____ Credit issued on billing
Dear Resident:

Thank you for your interest in the Special Meter Program. This will enable you to receive a credit on a future sanitary sewer rent bill. The credit is for water used for filling a pool or irrigating lawns and/or gardens.

To receive the credit, you must have a special meter attached to the water line that supplies the pool or irrigation system. This meter must be installed by a plumber at your expense.

Once you have the meter installed, please complete the attached form. At the beginning of next year, a Special Meter Reading card will be mailed to you. You will return the card with a current reading and the usage will be deducted from the next sanitary sewer rent bill.

If you have any questions regarding the Special Meter Program, do not hesitate to call me at (610) 645-6144.

Sincerely,

Adam Eureka
Financial Analyst
Finance Division