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Safe Swimming Pool Draining Tips Offered as Summer Closes

MSD encourages residents to drain pools in a safe, environmentally friendly way

DO NOT DRAIN YOUR POOL DURING OR UP TO 48 HOURS AFTER A RAIN EVENT

Many people begin to drain their pools as summer days come to a close. However, it's essential for Louisville residents to be aware of how to properly drain their pools, so they don't harm Louisville waterways or cause problems for neighbors.

"When the chlorine in swimming pools, which protects humans from harmful bacteria, goes into our creeks and streams it can kill fish and make it harder for other aquatic life to breathe," states MSD Development and Stormwater Services Director David Johnson.

The average pool has a chlorine concentration that is 10 times higher than some aquatic life can withstand. When chlorinated water is drained into storm drains, streets or gutters, and flows to local streams, harmful byproducts are produced, which are highly toxic and carcinogenic. That's why MSD **recommends that a pool sits for at least 10 days after chemical treatment before draining** any water. The recommendations apply to both above and in-ground pools.

Improper draining can also become a nuisance for residents and their neighbors. "We can see problems with basements backing up or a neighbor's yard flooding when their neighbor's pool is drained at too fast of a rate or drained in a small yard, which overwhelms the system," said Johnson.

Residents should never discharge water into the stormwater system, such as with catch basins or the street because this water directly reaches a natural body of water and is not filtered.

MSD offers these guidelines for residents to follow as they drain their swimming pools:

- Do not drain your pool during or up to 48 hours after a rain event.
- The pool should sit at least 10 days after chemical treatment before draining any water.
- Test the pool water to ensure that it is essentially chlorine-free before draining (about 0.1 parts per million total chlorine). Bubbling, cascading, or other forms of aeration will help to remove chlorine from water.

- The pool's pH should be in a normal range of 6 to 8 before draining.
- Drain to a grassy area in your yard if the yard is large enough to absorb the water.
- Discharge water slowly, at no more than 30 gallons per minute, to prevent soil erosion, flooding, or damage to adjacent properties, including backups into homes and businesses.
- For more information, call MSD Customer Relations at 502.540.6000 with your pool draining questions.



LouisvilleMSD

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 630 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.