

## Stormwater and You

There are many actions you can take on your property to help manage and protect stormwater—here are a few places to start:

- **GO NATIVE**—integrate native plants into your landscaping. A rain garden can help absorb runoff.
- **GREEN YOUR LAWN ROUTINE**—Mow your lawn high (3”–4” is best) and leave your grass clippings on the lawn to reduce or eliminate your fertilizer needs.
- **WATER SPARINGLY**—lawns only need 1” per week, so adjust your sprinklers accordingly and don’t irrigate when rain is in the forecast.
- **CAPTURE THE RAIN**—use a rain barrel to provide water for your garden or potted plants.



Learn more about how you can help protect water resources in Kane County by visiting [www.countyofkane.org](http://www.countyofkane.org) and selecting “Stormwater Resources” from the menu.

The Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources serves the citizens of Kane County by enforcing County Ordinances, and developing sustainable policies and procedures to protect the natural resources of the County.

*For more information about the Environmental & Water Resources Division, please visit:*

<http://countyofkane.org/FDER/Pages/ewrdiv.aspx>

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Kane County

## Guidelines for Draining Swimming Pools



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## Swimming Pool Guidelines

Your swimming pool is filled with chlorinated water. When this water is discharged directly to surface waters—including lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands—it can negatively impact our waterways and be toxic to fish and other wildlife.

Discharging swimming pool water into storm drains or drainage ditches can be equally harmful since these storm drains and ditches connect directly to our surface waters.



If you have a swimming pool (above ground or in-ground) or hot tub, it is important that you properly drain it.

If you put pool water into a sanitary sewer, the chlorine can adversely affect the micro-organisms at the wastewater treatment plant which are used to biodegrade the wastewater.

## Steps for Draining Your Pool

1) De-chlorinate the pool water prior to draining it. Chemicals that will quickly remove chlorine are available through pool and spa care vendors. Carefully follow the directions on the product label.

*or*

2) Drain the pool over a period of several days ACROSS your lawn following these guidelines:

- Allow the water to sit for at least 2 days in the sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine.
- It is recommended that you test the chlorine level to ensure that a safe level of below 0.1 mg/L is reached before draining the water.

► Direct the drainage across your lawn, and NOT down your driveway, into a storm drain, or directly to wetlands or other water bodies.



► Do NOT drain your water onto public property or another person's property.

► Do NOT drain your water into a private septic system.

## Additional Tips

Always be sure to follow the operation and maintenance instructions for your particular swimming pool.

When washing pool filters, discharge the wash water to the sanitary sewer system.

If you plan to use the pool the following year, it may be better to leave some water in it.

- Above ground pools can benefit from the weight of the water, and are better able to withstand potential damage from harsh winds in the winter when still partially filled.
- Leaving an in-ground pool partially filled can help prevent structural damage. During high groundwater periods, the water table can get high enough to push the shell of an in-ground pool up out of the ground.

