

## UMD 621 – Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping BMP

### Title: **SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE**

Chlorinated water discharge to surface waters has an adverse impact on stream biota. Swimming pools can be a major source of chlorinated water discharge into sanitary and storm sewer systems. The swimming pool holds about 150,000 gallons of chlorinated water. Pools have high concentrations of chlorine, which is toxic to fish.

The swimming pool is drained annually for cleaning and maintenance. Chlorinated water cannot be discharged directly into the storm water system or directly into any body of water. Disposal options are:

- Discharge into the sanitary sewer system using a pump or surge tank.
- When discharging a pool directly into the environment, water must be tested and comply with the applicable criteria.
  - Pool water must sit for at least two days after the last addition of chlorine or until the level of chlorine is below 0.1mg/l.
  - The ph must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.
  - Algaecides such as copper or silver can interrupt normal algal and plant growth in streams and should not be used.
  - Total suspended solids must be below 60mg/l. Suspended particles should be allowed to settle out and the water should not appear murky. Settled material should not be discharged to the environment
  - Discharges to the environment should be directed over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur.
  - Discharges shall not be allowed to create any erosion.
  - Draining of the pool should not coincide with any significant rain event.

When the diatomaceous earth filter system is cleaned, the sludge material should be disposed of as solid waste. Care should be taken to prevent leaching of the material into the environment.

#### References:

Oregon Department Of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). 1997 *Environmentally Safe Methods for Draining Swimming Pools*. News release. Accessed Dec. 1, 2003

EPA-Pollution Prevention/ Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations  
[[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/poll\\_1cfm](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/poll_1cfm)]