Proper Disposal of Residential Pool and Spa Water

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs contain many chemicals, especially large amounts of chlorine. Because water entering storm drains flows directly into streams and lakes and is not treated, it can harm fish and other aquatic life if it is discharged directly into the storm drain.

Releasing chlorinated pool water or backwash filter waste into a stream or storm drainage system is a violation of Shawnee Municipal Code 11.12.000

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When can I discharge my pool or hot tub water into the storm drain system?

You may discharge your pool water once tests have shown that the water is no longer chlorinated, has a pH range of 7-8, consists only of water, and is discharged in a way that does not cause it to flow onto a neighbor's property, or cause nuisance conditions or erosion problems. It is preferred you discharge the water to a grassy area on your property.

How do I get rid of the chlorine in my pool?

Once chlorine additions are stopped and if the water is left exposed to sunlight, chlorine will naturally dissipate in three to five days. De-chlorinating chemicals can be used to rid the water of chlorine more quickly and are available from pool or spa chemical suppliers, although it is preferred that the water is allowed to de-chlorinate naturally. Do-it-yourself chlorine and pH test kits are available from stores which sell pool chemicals.

What do I do with my back wash waste and old filters?

Wastes from pool filters and back wash systems are not allowed in the storm drain system. Backwash water from residential pools should be directed toward a grassy area on your property. Pool filters can be placed in your garbage.