



# Clean Water

## Action Plan

What can we do to improve the quality of water in the Tampa Bay area?

There are some simple things that can be done to reduce stormwater contamination. The basic rule of thumb is to follow the *only-stormwater-allowed-in-the-storm-system* rule.

### Properly Disposing of Pool Water

Since chemicals used to keep our swimming pools clean can have a very negative impact on Tampa Bay and its surrounding waters, it is **illegal** to dump your chlorinated pool water into the stormwater system. Some of those chemicals can kill the fish in the Bay and pollute the water that you swim in!

So, instead of emptying your pool by letting the chlorinated water go down your driveway and into the street and curb inlets, you have a few other choices.

- Drain the chlorinated water onto a grassy or planted area where the chlorinated water can be absorbed by the soil so that the contaminants have a chance to be removed from the water before it enters the storm system, creeks and other Tampa Bay waters.
- Drain the chlorinated water into your sanitary sewer system - a laundry sink or other interior plumbing fixture.
- Dechlorinate the water. You can either use a chemical (like sodium sulfite) to neutralize the pool water or let the pool water sit for a few days to let the sunshine do its work on the chemicals.

FYI... The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regularly inspects Pinellas County and its municipalities to make sure they are enforcing the laws relating to the Clean Water Act.