

## Draining a Salt Water Pool



Do you have a salt water pool? Do you allow the water to drain into the City's stormwater system – down your driveway, into the street, which then goes down a stormwater inlet? If so, it is illegal to do so. The City has an ordinance that covers illicit discharges and includes a fine.

The City is required to follow the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. In order to keep our waters clean and prevent any type of pollutants from entering the waters, the only thing allowed to enter the stormwater system is stormwater – with a few specific exceptions like water from the Fire Department putting out a fire or de-chlorinated pool water.

If your pool is located near a salt water body, can you discharge it directly into the salt water? No. Salt water pools can have issues if discharged into the stormwater system and into salt water. Since saltwater pools use generators that turn the salt into chlorine, they are still chlorinated pools.

Also, depending on the system, you may still have to shock the pool using granular or liquid chlorine because the super chlorinate setting on the generators may not bring the chlorine level high enough.

So how do you de-salinate /de-chlorinate for discharge? Splash out and evaporation (both requiring refilling with fresh water) and rain will bring the levels down if you stop adding salt, but the problem is: What is an acceptable level of salt?

The bottom line is that salt water pools are to be treated as chlorinated pools with discharge into the sanitary sewer system, onto one's property (without impacting your neighbor's property) if it will infiltrate and not harm the vegetation, or through dechlorination and desalination.