



City of Valdosta Utilities Department *Water | Sewer | Stormwater*

POOL MAINTENANCE

In the summer, most people in south Georgia would love to have a backyard swimming pool; however few want to deal with the maintenance that comes with it. In the normal operation of swimming pools, the filtration system collects and filters a range of materials such as dirt particles, wind blown materials (e.g. leaves and lawn cuttings), and insects. To work efficiently, the filters need to be cleaned by backwashing all the captured materials out of the filter.

HOW CAN POOLS IMPACT OUR WATERWAYS?

Due to the various water treatment products, backwash water from swimming pools that is discharged directly into the stormwater system can pollute our creeks, streams, ponds, and other waterways. Water treatment products that can be harmful to our waterways include: chlorine, salt and acid.



In areas where City sanitary sewer is available, it is recommended that backwash water from swimming pools be directed to the sewer system. There are also other options for areas with sanitary sewer as well as those that do not currently have sewer available. Options include:

- (1) Discharge the backwash water on to a grassed, vegetated, or gravel area as long is it does not run off outside the property boundaries. For salt water pools, any areas used for disposal would need salt tolerant plant species.
- (2) If the backwash water has been dechlorinated, it can be discharged to the stormwater system.

Swimming pool backwash water that is discharged on to roadways, ditches, waterways, or neighboring property can combine with other pollutants in the stormwater system and create a potentially significant impact on the receiving water environment.

This type of pollution violates:

**The Federal Clean Water Act
The Georgia Water Quality Act**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Utilities Department
P.O. Box 1125
Valdosta, Georgia 31603
Phone: (229) 259-3592
After Hours: (229) 333-1832
www.valdostacity.com

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