

# GILL'S Guide to Healthy Surface Water

## EMPTY YOUR POOL AND SPA WITH CARE, Part One



This is it - the end of the summer and time to empty the pool until next year. Chlorine and other chemicals used to keep your pool or spa clean causes BIG problems for us fish and other aquatic life. ALL it takes is a FEW steps to not compromise or pollute the "air" (i.e. water) we breath:

- Allow pool / spa to sit at least seven days without adding chlorine or other chemicals - chlorine content should be 0.1 milligrams per liter.
- Ensure the pH of the pool / spa water is between 7 and 8.
- Drain water through at least 15 feet of a grassy landscape first (i.e. not directly onto concrete) to allow remaining chemicals to disappate before reaching the storm drain.
- Keep the flow of water low (shoot for 700 gallons per hour = 12 gallons per minute or so) - to prevent erosion and having to fix the landscaped area later.

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN KEEPING MY "HOME" HEALTHY!**

**GILL, THE FAMOUS ISWEP SPOKESFISH**

# GILL'S Guide to Healthy Surface Water

## EMPTY YOUR POOL AND SPA WITH CARE, Part Two

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR SALTWATER POOLS AND SPAS AND BACKWASH FILTER SYSTEMS...

Hey, here in Iowa we are fresh water fish - saltwater is deadly to aquatic life. You must discontinue the addition of salt as you ready to empty the pool or spa. Like the chlorine pool, test to ensure chlorine is below 0.1 mg/l and the pH is between 7 and 8 before draining commences onto a grassy landscape that is salt-tolerant AND able to absorb all water.

Water from backwash filter systems are not allowed in the storm sewer system, under any circumstances. This water should be directed to the sanitary system through a drain in your home or discharged to the lawn.

Word has it, failure to follow these guidelines is considered an illicit discharge, under City code and could result in a fine.



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