How to drain your swimming pool

You may need to drain a fraction of your water to improve water quality or make repairs.

- Don't drain pool water into the street, gutters or storm drains: this is a violation of local codes and you could be cited for water waste. Draining your pool into the sewer system allows water to be treated and reused.
- If you have a septic tank, do not drain your pool into the tank.
- Some pools have their own sewer connection so you can drain your pool directly into the sewer system. If your's doesn't, use these tips to drain your pool:
- Shut off the power to the pool's filtration system at the circuit breaker and turn off the automatic water fill valve.
- Find the sewer clean-out port to access the sanitary sewer line. The port is usually located in the ground and close to the home, often near a water spigot. The port should have a rubber or threaded cap with a square wrench fitting and be about three to four inches in diameter.
- Run a drainage hose from the sewer clean-out port to the pool, and connect it to a submersible pump. Lower the pump into the deepest area of the pool, near the drain. As you drain, monitor flow into the clean-out port to ensure water doesn't back up into your home's sink and shower drains. If back-up does occur, stop and contact a plumber.
- The maximum recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute—a safe pumping rate may be less. (Note: any hoses or equipment inserted into the sewer line can become contaminated.)
- After draining your pool, refill it as soon as possible. Direct sunlight can damage your pool's exposed plaster. It may take a few days for the fresh water to reach the proper chemical levels, so check the levels daily for a week and add chemicals as needed.
- Check pool-chemical levels daily for a week. It may take several days for fresh water to reach the proper chemical levels.
- If your pool has a dedicated sewer connection, also known as an integrated system, refer to your owner's manual or contact your pool contractor for draining instructions.