

## Delta Building/Plumbing Bylaw No. 6060, 2002

### Section 19 - Swimming Pools

1. A building permit is required for a swimming pool, hot tub, spa, fish pond, wading or lap pool, prior to its installation or construction, where the pool depth exceeds 450 mm.
2. Every swimming pool, hot tub, spa, fish pond, wading or lap pool, having a pool depth of greater than 450 mm at any point, shall be surrounded by a fence, building or other structure, no less than 1.5 metres (5 feet) in height above grade. The fence shall be constructed either on the property line or surrounding the pool, spa or pond in such a manner as to render the pool, spa or pond secure from unauthorized entry. Where chain link fence material is to be used the openings in the mesh shall not be greater than 45 mm measured horizontally and the wire shall not be less than 11 gauge. The fence shall have no openings greater than 100 mm between grade and the top of the fence and shall be built so that no attachment between 100 mm and 900 mm will facilitate climbing. All access to a pool, spa or pond shall be operated by a self-closing mechanism and latch mounted on the pool site of each access through the fence, building or other structure, a minimum of 1 metre above grade.
3. A hot tub may be covered with a locking cover which would prevent unauthorized access to the water in-lieu of a fence.
4. It is the responsibility of each owner or occupier of property on or in which a pool is located, to maintain every fence required under Section 19.2 in good order. All sagging gates, loose parts, torn mesh, missing materials, worn latches, locks or broken or binding members shall be promptly replaced or repaired.

#### Building Permit Requirements for Hot Tubs.

- BP Application, Schedules 2 and 3
- Form H Soil Contamination Review (if soil disturbance is likely)
- Locking Device? Indicate whether on Hot Tub Lid \_\_\_\_\_ or On Fence \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOTICE

#### PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE HOT TUBS

Hot tubs having potable water supply and/or waste pipe connections require permits and inspections and must be installed in accordance with the requirements of Delta Building and Plumbing Bylaw 6060. A permit fee will apply.



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY**

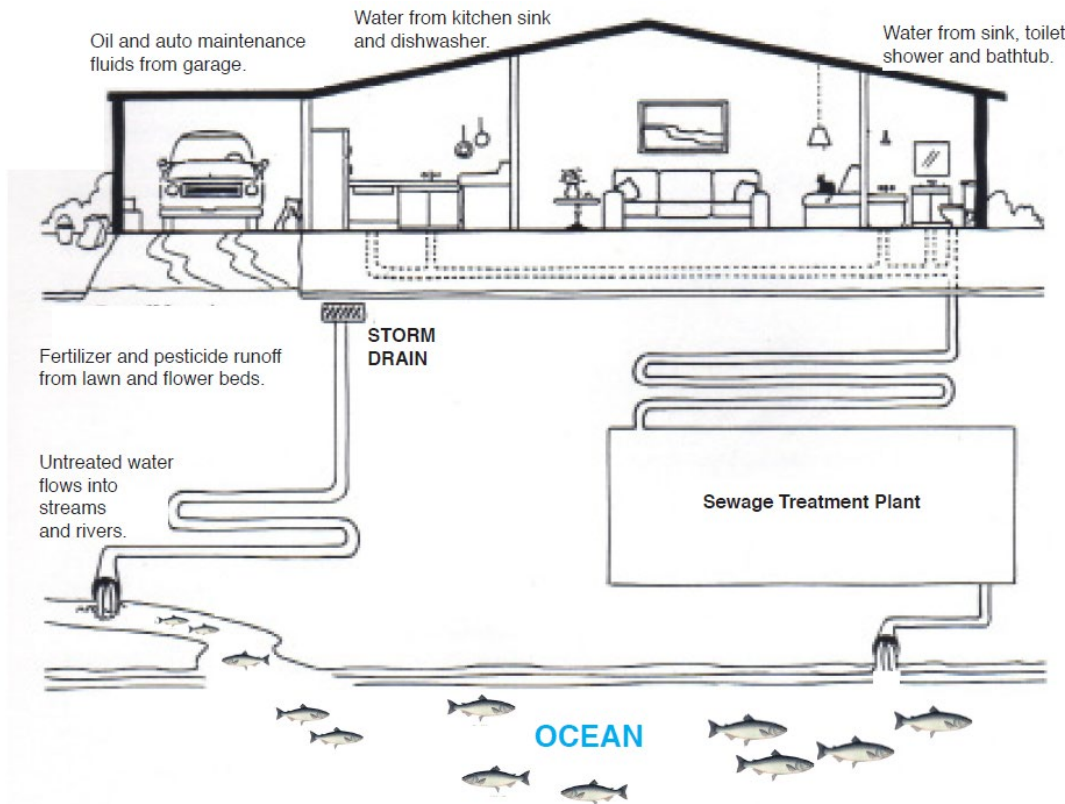
**Approved August 14, 2020**

**Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs & Spas**

Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas must be cleaned and maintained for health reasons. However, many of the chemicals used to treat, clean and maintain swimming pools are toxic to fish and aquatic wildlife; even the residual chlorine in swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas can kill fish and other aquatic life.

Concern: When Waste water is released from swimming pools, hot tubs, spas or their recirculation systems it can flow into the perimeter drains and catch basins on the road and enter the public storm sewer system. Storm sewers discharge this water to nearest body of water (stream, creek, ocean); there is no water treatment in the storm sewer system.

## Where the Water Goes



Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada



## Permanent Sanitary Sewer Connection

A permanent connection between a swimming pool, hot tub, or spa recirculation system to the sanitary sewer is the best pool water disposal method. Environmental and flooding issues are avoided when properly built connections are in place. Permanent connection to the sanitary sewer is recommended for all new builds.

## Best Management Practices for Draining Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs and spas with no permanent connection to the Sanitary Sewer

Where retrofitting existing pools and hot tubs to have a permanent sanitary sewer connection is not feasible employ the following practices to drain a swimming pool, hot tub or spa:

- (Recommended) Create a temporary connection with the sanitary sewer by placing the end of the discharge hose in to a laundry sink, bathtub or shower stall. The pump's flow rate may require adjustment so as not to cause flooding. You **must** use this draining method if you have a salt-water pool or if you are draining water contaminated with cleaning chemicals (e.g. acid washes, algaecide). Floor drains that are confirmed to be connected to the sanitary sewer can also be used.
- If the waste water only contains disinfectant and is at pH 7: turn off and disconnect the chlorinator and allow the disinfectant (chlorine or bromine) to naturally dissipate by exposing the water to sunlight and the open environment for 3-5 days. Do not cover the water during this time. After a few days, **TEST the water to determine if the disinfectant level is at zero**. Let the water sit in for additional time until disinfectant levels are zero. When no disinfectant residual is left, **SLOWLY** release it onto your own property, preferably on a flat, grassy area to allow it to soak into the ground. This method is inherently risky and is **NOT** recommended on properties which are adjacent to streams, ditches or ravines, or properties with existing high water tables, limited grass infiltration area, narrow lots, or slopes.
- Drained pool basins that have subsequently filled with rainwater or groundwater may be safely emptied into a storm sewer if no chemicals have been added to the water. Water release must not result in flooding.

## Pool, Hot Tub and Spa Chemical Storage and Disposal

- Store chemicals in a dry, secure area where spills will be contained and will not enter the storm sewer system. Immediately clean up any spills of toxic and hazardous chemicals. Use personal protective equipment as swimming pool chemicals are hazardous and be aware that some pool chemicals are incompatible with each other and can release toxic gases if mixed.
- Unwanted chemicals are often hazardous wastes and must **NOT** be disposed of as regular garbage; contact the BC Recycling Hotline at 604.732.9253 for more disposal information.



## Enforcement

Waste water containing any of the following chemicals is considered a pollution substance: residual disinfectant, salt, acid wash residue or algaecide. Section 4(b) of the Delta Storm Sewers Regulation and Connection Charge Bylaw No. 5786, 2000 states, "No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into a storm sewer anything other than unpolluted drainage water." Violators are subject to fines of up to \$2,000 per offence; fines may be even higher if the discharge results in a fish kill.

For further information contact Climate Action & Environment at 604.946.3253.



## Spill Prevention & Treatment

Spills must be contained and cleaned to prevent any products or chemicals from entering the stormwater drainage system. Read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of the spilled chemical for clean-up instructions.

In the event of a spill to the environment, contact Emergency Management BC (EMBC) at 1-800-663-3456. In the event of a spill of a chemical that is flammable, toxic, corrosive or otherwise hazardous, call 9-1-1 immediately and ask for the Fire Department.

## You Are Responsible

Any persons responsible for contaminating the storm water system may be held liable under the following environmental legislations:

- Federal Fisheries Act
- BC Hazardous Waste Regulation
- BC Environmental Management Act
- Delta Bylaws No. 1615 and No. 5786

### Did you know?

Even though the chlorine concentration in pool water is generally 1-5 ppm, this level is still 10 to 50 times higher than the maximum concentration allowed by the Ministry of Environment for freshwater aquatic life.

## Learn More

**City of Delta**

[www.delta.ca](http://www.delta.ca)

Building and Plumbing

604-946-3330

Climate Action & Environment

604-946-3253

Delta Fire Department

604-946-8541

**RCBC Recycling Hotline**

604-732-9253

**BC Ministry of the Environment**

604-582-5200

**The Pool and Hot Tub Council of Canada**

[www.poolcouncil.ca](http://www.poolcouncil.ca)

**Metro Vancouver Recycles**

[www.metrovancouverrecycles.org](http://www.metrovancouverrecycles.org)

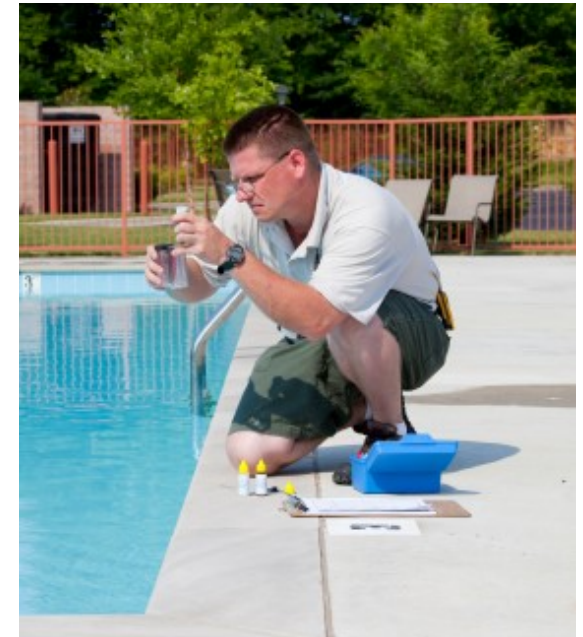
If you witness a spill or chemicals being poured into a storm drain, immediately contact Climate Action & Environment at 604-946-3253.



The City of Delta  
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Delta, BC V4K 3E2

Delta

## Environmentally Responsible Best Practices for Disposal of Pool and Hot Tub Water and Chemicals



**We Need Your Help!**

**Keep Delta's water and delicate ecosystems clean!**



## Hazardous Materials Risk

### Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

There are many environmentally hazardous chemicals used in cleaning and maintaining pools, spas, and hot tubs, including:

- Solid or liquid chlorine or bromine,
- Solid or liquid acid (“pH Down”)
- Nonylphenol and ethoxylates
- Copper from algaecides
- Sodium chloride, if you have a salt-water pool
- Pool water testing chemicals (reagents)

Pool water and chemicals are **TOXIC** to aquatic life and must **NOT** be discharged into storm drains or into local watercourses!

Review the following best management practices on how to properly store and dispose of hazardous materials.

## Best Management Practices

### Pool Chemical Storage and Disposal

- Store pool chemicals in a dry, secure area where spills will be contained and cannot enter the storm sewer system or the environment.
- Do not dispose of old chemicals or testing reagents down the drain or as regular garbage; they are considered hazardous wastes. Contact the Recycling Council of BC for more information (see back page).
- Never mix chlorine or bromine with acidic products or ammonia; this will generate toxic gases.

### Pool Water Drainage

The proper way to discharge swimming pool or hot tub water is through a sanitary sewer connection.

- Pools with a plumbed-in connection to the sanitary sewer may discharge without concern.
- For pools or hot tubs without a plumbed-in sanitary sewer connection, temporarily place the end of the discharge hose in to a fixture connected to the sanitary sewer (e.g. laundry sink, bathtub etc.). The flow rate may need to be adjusted to prevent flooding.

**\*\*If you have a salt-water pool, or if you want to discharge water contaminated with acid wash or algaecide, then you must discharge the water via a sanitary sewer connection only.**

If a sanitary sewer connection is unavailable and cannot be temporarily established:

- Slowly discharge filter backwash water onto a flat, grassy area of your property, away from any perimeter drain or paved area.
- To drain a pool, turn off or disconnect the disinfectant feeder.
- Allow the disinfectant to naturally dissipate; this may take several days, depending on the weather. Keep the pool uncovered.
- Slowly discharge the water on to your property **ONLY AFTER** confirming that there is no disinfectant residual, the water pH is near 7, and the runoff does **not** go into any storm drain, perimeter drain, neighbouring yard, ditch, or stream.

**\*\*This drainage method should be considered a last resort due to its inherent risks. You may be held liable for property or environmental damage resulting from improper pool water discharge.**



**Residual chlorine from swimming pool water can kill fish when it enters a stream.**