

Swimming Pool Wastewater



Pool cleaning contractors must register with the CT-DEP. Before you hire one, ask to see a copy of their registration.

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Chlorine and other chemicals (bromine) used in maintaining pools and spas often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds that can have a negative impact on marine and aquatic life if mismanaged. Even at extremely low levels, chlorine can be toxic to life in lakes, ponds, and coastal basins. Swimming pool wastewater can also contain solids and harmful bacteria.

Legal Requirements:

- Marinas which initiate, create, originate, or maintain a discharge of swimming pool wastewater must register with CT-DEP for a *General Permit for the Discharge of Swimming Pool Wastewater* [CGS §22a-430b]. This General Permit covers the discharge of:
 - **Backwash Wastewater:** wastewater generated by backwashing a swimming pool filtration system
 - **Draining Water:** wastewater generated by draining a swimming pool
 - **Pressure Wash Wastewater:** wastewater generated by pressure washing a swimming pool
 - **Acid Cleaning Wastewater:** wastewater generated by the acid cleaning of a swimming pool
- The requirements for treatment of swimming pool wastewater before discharge depend on the type of wastewater (see above) and where it is intended to be discharged (municipal sanitary sewer, surface water, ground surface water, or dedicated pool water subsurface disposal system). Contact the CT-DEP's Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance at (860) 424-3018 for more information and a copy of the general permit which lists all the legal requirements for discharge.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

No Clean Marina certification criteria specific to swimming pool wastewater.