



Chatham County Catch Basin

DON'T BE A POOL-LUTER!

Pool season is coming closer as the temperatures warm up! For all Chatham County residents who own an in-ground or above ground pool, saltwater or chlorinated water, this means pool maintenance is coming closer too! Be sure to mind proper draining protocols and adhere to water discharge standards to prevent pollution when you service your pool!

Don't be a POOL-luter by minding the pool Ps and Qs!

Minding the Ps: Proper Protocols Prevent Penalties & Pollution

Pool owners need to properly maintain and care for their pool, even the pool water to help keep stormwater clean and prevent significant financial penalties. Pool water is not clean water as it is full of chemicals (like sunscreens and bug sprays) that pollute nearby waterways! Please do not drain pool water into storm drains!

Properly maintaining a pool costs time and money; however, improperly maintaining a pool will *also* cost owners time and money! Each year, many homeowners and pool maintenance companies are caught draining pool water directly into the storm drains. This activity is illegal! In order to follow proper protocols, pool water should not leave the pool until water tests indicate that no chlorine remains in the water. All pool water must stay on your land to soak into the ground or discharge into sanitary sewer with prior permission.

Per Chatham County Code Book, chlorinated pool water is considered "tainted" and should not be allowed to enter the stormwater system (storm drain, ditch, canal, or waterway or any public right-of-way that connects to stormwater structures). Allowing tainted waters to enter the stormwater system violates Chatham County Code §24 -708 and are subject to penalties of \$500 per day as stated in Chatham County Code §24 - 713.

Minding the Qs: Quality and Quantity Count

All pools use chlorine. Chlorine prevents bacteria and algal growth in pools. For these reasons, chlorine is harmful to wildlife and should not be emptied into natural waterways. Pool water quality should be tested as no chlorine should be drained into storm drains as this allows contaminated waters to empty into local streams and waterways. When draining pools or backwashing filters, be sure water quality meets certain standards. For instance, when backwash or draining is needed, avoid adding chlorine to the pool for a few days. Check chlorine levels over this time until no chlorine is detected and then perform the necessary maintenance or draining.

At some point in your pool ownership, maintenance will be needed where the pool will need to be backwashed or the pool will need to be drained. Whether large quantity or small, at no time should pool water flow onto other private or public properties. Ideally, pool water should remain on your property where it can soak into the ground. If this is not possible, then ask and obtain permission to drain/discharge pool water into the sanitary sewer system.

Thanks for keeping STORMWATER clean!



Storm Drain Marking Tile

Volunteer can help *Keep Stormwater Clean!*

For more information,

Email Stormwater@ChathamCounty.org

Community Opportunities

Take the Wastewater Survey

Wastewater is treated by **SEPTIC** or **SEWER**. **Septic** systems are comprised of a septic tank and drain field that allow for a home's wastewater to collect in a septic tank to settle solids, then allow water to slowly seep into the home's drain field; this is known as onsite wastewater treatment.



These systems are maintained by the homeowner (for example, use septic safe cleaners and pump every 5yrs).

Sewer connections divert wastewater offsite through a series of sewer pipes to a wastewater treatment facility. **Sewer** connections are maintained by a utility company for which the homeowner pays a fee.

Do you know where your wastewater goes after you flush?

Septic System
(Onsite Tank and Treatment)



OR

Sewer Connection
(Offsite Utility, Billed Treatment)



Time to VOLUNTEER?

Become an
**Adopt-A-Drain
Stormwater Volunteer!**



**STORMWATER
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM**

Volunteers are needed to
apply storm drain tiles
to Unincorporated
Chatham County storm drains!!

Contact Angela at
acbliss@chathamcounty.org



Digger Dog is Coming to town!

Georgia 811's mascot, Digger Dog and our Education Administrator Maria Copeland, will be in Savannah!

Free Utility Safety programs available for 2nd & 3rd Graders

Programs available March 13-16, 2023 and April 13, 2023.

If you are interested in having Digger and Ms. Maria visit your school, please fill out a "Visit Request Form" at <http://Diggerdog811.com/>.

Become a DIGGER TOP DOG!

