

DISPOSAL OF WATER AND WASTE WATER FROM DOMESTIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS



In Guernsey our groundwater, streams and reservoirs are at risk of pollution from relatively small quantities of chemicals and effluent discharges.

The Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 1989, states that ‘**No person shall cause or permit the occurrence of pollution, or cause or permit a risk of pollution to arise**’. To prevent such pollution, Guernsey Water does not permit the disposal of swimming pool waters containing chlorine, bromine or salt (sodium chloride) into surface water drains, land drains, streams, douts or drainage ditches. **Pool or spa water (including filter backwash water) containing sodium chloride from salt disinfection systems or brominated compounds from bromine disinfection systems MUST be disposed of via the foul sewer or cesspit.**

■ CHLORINE DISINFECTION SYSTEMS

Small volumes of backwash water from domestic pools or spas containing less than 5.0mg/l (5.0ppm) chlorine can be disposed of via a soakaway or grassy area provided it is a minimum of 10 metres away from the nearest stream. Draining of pools, irrespective of volume, can only be undertaken once chlorine levels have been allowed to decay to zero. Emptying can then take place at a slow rate and in a controlled manner. You must inform Guernsey Water’s Compliance Manager if you intend to do this (telephone number 724552).

■ POLLUTION

It is very easy to contaminate watercourses leading to the death of aquatic wildlife, damage to the environment and the closure of stream transfer stations. Chlorine is an aggressive disinfectant and will react with organic matter that occurs naturally in surface waters to form compounds, many of which are harmful. Most pollution incidents are avoidable. A frequently occurring factor is a lack of awareness of the purpose of drains and gullies.



Ensuring you know the correct disposal route of drains and following these guidelines will allow you to enjoy your pool safe in the knowledge you are protecting the Island’s aquatic environment.

■ CHEMICAL STORAGE

Make sure pool chemicals are stored out of direct sunlight in a cool dry environment, in labelled containers and locked away from children. Never mix chemicals. **Please note** that it is essential to protect the water resources in the Island and to safeguard the local environment and the Island’s water supplies. Guernsey Water’s policy is to investigate all cases where the negligent use of chemicals or disposal of effluents has led to pollution or a risk of pollution occurring.

■ PLUMBING

All pools and spas using the Public Water Supply must fully comply with “**The Water Byelaws (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2003**”. Should you require any further information, please contact Guernsey Water’s Chief Plumbing Inspector on telephone number 724552. Additionally, in order to comply with the Ordinance, any person installing a swimming pool, spa or jacuzzi on their property must pay for their water by measured volume. If you do not have a water meter, then please contact us.

For further advice please contact Guernsey Water’s Compliance Manager on telephone number 724552 during working hours. In the case of an emergency, please call **264073**.