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MEDIA RELEASE

September 3, 2024

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Safe Swimming Pool Draining Tips Offered as Summer Closes

MSD encourages residents to drain pools in a safe, environmentally friendly way

DO NOT DRAIN YOUR POOL DURING OR UP TO 48 HOURS AFTER A RAIN EVENT

Homeowners may soon begin to drain their pools as summer days come to a close. Properly draining swimming pools is crucial for the health of local waterways and good relations with neighbors.

“Water containing chlorine can kill fish and other aquatic life in creeks and streams,” states MSD MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Program Administrator Colette Easter. The average pool has a chlorine concentration 10 times higher than some aquatic life can withstand. **MSD recommends letting a pool sit for at least 10 days after chemical treatment before draining** any water.

Improper draining can also become a nuisance for residents and their neighbors by causing a backup or basement or yard flooding. Homeowners may **slowly** drain chlorine-free water to a grassy area in their yard if it is large enough to absorb the water. Or they can drain into a sanitary sewer cleanout if one is available on their property.

Please follow these guidelines when draining a swimming pool:

- Do not drain your pool during or up to 48 hours after a rain event.
- Dechlorinate your swimming pool water before draining it. The pool should sit at least 10 days after chemical treatment before draining any water.
- Test the pool water to ensure that it is essentially chlorine-free before draining (about 0.1 parts per million total chlorine). Bubbling, cascading, or other forms of aeration will help to remove chlorine from water.
- The pool’s pH should be in a normal range of 6 to 8 before draining.
- Drain to a grassy area of the yard if it is large enough to absorb the water, or into a sanitary sewer cleanout, if one is available on the property.
- Discharge water slowly, at no more than 30 gallons per minute, to prevent soil erosion, flooding, or damage to adjacent properties, including backups into homes and businesses.

For more information, visit LouisvilleMSD.org/WaterQuality or call MSD Customer Relations at 502.540.6000 with your pool draining questions.

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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 750 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.