



Recycling your Swimming Pool Water

As responsible recreation facility operators we should be constantly looking for ways to reduce our impact on the environment. With many swimming pools closing for annual maintenance shutdowns or end of season closures, now is the perfect time to think about creative ways to re-use all that filtered water.

Some facilities may not be able to efficiently re-use their water simply because of the high Total Dissolved Solids (salt water chlorine generation systems) or high Calcium Hardness. Using fresh water to dilute the TDS and Hardness may negate any benefits of recycling pool water. If this is the case for your pool, you should discuss draining procedures with your treatment plant operators to ensure safe removal of your pool water.

Regardless of what method you choose to empty your pool you must always neutralize it. Sewer plant operators do not appreciate having large amounts of chlorinated water pounding into their systems. It severely affects the treatment process. Pool operators should aim for ZERO chlorine in their pool water as they are draining. Also, pH and alkalinity levels should be as close to the source water (municipal tap water) amounts as possible.

Uses for Pool Water

- Street cleaning. Speak with your operations department to see if they have street sweeping planned for when you are draining.
- Fire Department. Your local fire department may wish to refill their tanks using your clean, filtered water.
- Dust Control/Water Tanker companies.
- Boulevard and Flower Basket watering. Your Parks department may be able to make great use of your filtered water. Community Garden* water tanks could also be topped up or filled.
- Watering around the facility and inside plants*.
- Facility janitorial workers may wish to use pool water for mopping, floor scrubbing and similar duties*.

* Check with your Environmental Health Officer prior to ensure they are comfortable with your plans. These are just some possibilities; your community may have other opportunities for re-using your pool water. The advantages to recycling pool water include lowering demand on wastewater treatment, reducing consumption of a natural resource and involving the community and other departments in your operation.

