

Frequently Asked Questions

New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Swimming Pool Discharge (B6) General Permit (NJ0128589)

1. Are discharges from residential swimming pools eligible for the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit?

No. Any discharges from residential swimming pools to surface waters (i.e., rivers, streams) are not required to apply for the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit since they are regulated through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit as issued to the local municipality. Information on the MS4 program is available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/msrp_home.htm.

2. Who is eligible?

The category of discharges that are eligible for authorization under the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit are those operating entity(ies) of a **municipal, commercial, non-residential or community (e.g., townhouses and condominiums)** swimming pool(s) that discharge water from either **draining of the pool** or **filter backwash** into most receiving waters (i.e., rivers, streams) of the State of New Jersey.

3. If I discharge to a storm sewer from a municipal, commercial, non-residential or community pool, do I need to apply for the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit?

Yes, provided the discharge and receiving waterbody are eligible under the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit. Because most storm sewer systems discharge to a receiving waterbody, the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit authorizes discharges to storm sewer systems. Therefore, an application for the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit should be submitted to the Department.

4. Provided I have an eligible discharge, how do I apply for a Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit?

The Bureau of Surface Water Permitting has developed a Request for Authorization (RFA) checklist (available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/pdf/B6_Checklist.pdf) to assist in completing the application for the NJPDES-DSW general permit NJ012859 (Category B6). The checklist specifies the information required to be submitted to the Department. The application should include:

1. A completed NJPDES Form-1(available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/pdf/njpdes1f.pdf)
2. A completed Supplemental Application Form to NJPDES-1 Category B6 (available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/pdf/B6_Supplemental_Form.pdf)

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If applicable, attach the following:

- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- Notification to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

The completed and signed application package must be submitted electronically to swimmingpoolgp@dep.nj.gov.

5. How do I determine the name and classification of the receiving water into which I discharge?

The Bureau of Surface Water Permitting has developed step by step instructions, as part of the Request for Authorization (RFA) checklist (see www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/B6_Checklist.pdf) to assist in determining any receiving water classifications.

6. Provided I have an eligible discharge, can I discharge to any receiving water under the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit?

The Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit does not authorize discharges into receiving waters classified as certain Shellfish waters and Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) including FW1 waters and Pinelands (PL) waters. Additionally, the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit does NOT allow discharges of filter backwash to receiving waters designated as Category 1. See item 5 above regarding information on determining any receiving water classifications.

7. Can I discharge filter backwash under the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit?

The Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit general permit only authorizes discharges of filter backwash into receiving waters designated as C2 only. Filter backwash is NOT allowed to be discharged to Category 1 designated waters.

8. If I discharge to a storm sewer system, how do I determine the name and classification of the receiving water?

To determine the name and classification of the receiving water into which the storm sewer discharges you can either contact your local Municipality or follow the step by step instructions, as part of the Request for Authorization (RFA) checklist (available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/B6_Checklist.pdf) to assist in determining the receiving water classifications.

9. If my receiving water is designated as C1, how do I dispose of my filter backwash?

If the receiving water that you discharge to is designated as C1, you will need to have your filter backwash hauled to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) or construct a seepage pit in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8.5(b)5 and discharge the backwash to the groundwater. For

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further information regarding discharging to groundwater, contact the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control at (609) 633-7021.

10. How many days do I have to apply prior discharging?

The Department must receive your completed and signed application package electronically to swimmingpoolgp@dep.nj.gov at least **seven (7) calendar days** prior to discharge.

11. What are the permit requirements?

The Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit requires applicants to implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure compliance with the following, but not limited to, requirements:

- Chlorine/bromine level of the discharge shall be 0.1 mg/L or below;
- The pH of the discharge to Fresh Water (FW)², Saline Estuarine (SE)¹, SE2 and SE3 waters shall be between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units. For discharges to Saline Coastal (SC) waters, the natural pH conditions shall prevail;
- The discharge shall be at the ambient temperature of the receiving water prior to discharge;
- The discharge shall not cause erosion;
- The discharge shall not contain any scum, foam, visible sheen or floating solids;
- The discharge shall not produce objectionable color or odor;
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) or turbidity shall be minimized; and
- Algaecides containing copper and/or silver shall not be discharged.

12. How do I know if my permit is approved?

The Department intends to issue a decision within approximately seven (7) from the receipt of the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit application. If approved, the applicant/operating entity will receive an e-mail with an attached permit authorization page.

13. How long does my permit last?

Any authorization issued under the Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit is valid until September 30, 2022.

14. Who can I contact with questions?

Contact Tara Klimowicz or Dwayne Kobesky of the Bureau of Surface Water Permitting by phone at (609) 292-4860 or by email at swimmingpoolgp@dep.nj.gov.

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