

# Dechlorinate Water Before Draining Pool

Keeping chlorine at its proper level in your swimming pool is important to maintain the cleanliness of the water and to protect swimmers. However, that same chlorine presents problems when draining your pool into the street or on your property. Whenever you let water out of your pool, it *must* first be dechlorinated to avoid contaminating the soil and groundwater in the area of drainage.

## How to Dechlorinate Pool Water

### Step 1

Plan ahead. Dechlorination will take a few days so make sure you have enough time to complete the process.

### Step 2

First, consider natural dechlorination. Sunlight will gradually reduce the chlorine level of the water as long as fresh chlorine isn't added. Remove any chlorine or chlorine-based chemicals from the pool or its filtration system and allow approximately four days of sunshine to pass before testing and draining.

### Step 3

If natural dechlorination isn't practical, or if you're pressed for time, consider using a chlorine-countering chemical to neutralize the water before draining. There are many chemical dechlorinating agents available at pool stores or other retailers. One popular dechlorinator is sodium thiosulphate.

### Step 4

If you choose chemical dechlorination, read the instructions carefully. Find out how many gallons of water your pool holds and test the chlorine level. Those two factors will determine how much dechlorinator to use. For example, if you have a 20,000 gallon pool and its chlorine level is 2 parts per million, you would need 450 grams of dechlorinator. Be sure to mix the dechlorinator in a bucket of warm water and distribute it evenly throughout the pool. Let the water cycle through the filtration system twice before re-testing and draining.