



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Category B6 – Swimming Pool Discharge 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: <https://dep.nj.gov/njpdes-stormwater/municipal-stormwater-regulation-program/>.

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

The Bureau of Surface Water and Pretreatment Permitting has developed a Request for Authorization (RFA) checklist to assist in completing the application for the NJPDES-DSW general permit NJ012859 (Category B6).

The checklist is available at:

https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dwq/pdf/applications_and_checklists/checklist_b6.pdf

The checklist specifies the information required to be submitted to the Department. The application should include:

- A completed NJPDES Form-1:
https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dwq/pdf/applications_and_checklists/njpdes1.pdf
- A completed Supplemental Application Form to NJPDES-1 Category B6:
https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dwq/pdf/applications_and_checklists/supplemental_form_b6.pdf
- 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.

4. 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 Fresh waters 1 (FW1) 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 (C1).

5. How do I determine the name and classification i.e., Category 2 (C2) or C1, of the receiving water into which I discharge?

The receiving water name and classification can be determined by using the Department's mapping software, NJ Geo-Web (<https://dep.nj.gov/gis/nj-geoweb/>) or the NJ Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B (https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/rules/rules/njac7_9b.pdf).

6. 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.

7. 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 see item 5 above.

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

The Swimming Pool Discharge General Permit authorizes the discharge of filter backwash into receiving waters designated as C2 only. Filter backwash is not allowed to be discharged to C1 designated waters.

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 (or sent) to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) or discharge the filter backwash to groundwater by constructing a seepage pit pursuant to a permit-by-rule at N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8.5(b)5.

For further information regarding discharging to groundwater or seepage pits, contact the Bureau of Ground Water, Residuals and Permit Administration - Groundwater Permitting Unit at (609) 984-4428.

10. 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 FW2, 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.

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

If approved, the applicant/operating entity will receive an e-mail from the Department with the final B6 general permit authorization attached as a Portable Document Format (PDF). No paper copies of the permit will be mailed.

12. How long does my permit last?

All final B6 general permit authorizations will have the same expiration date of January 31, 2029, consistent with the Master B6 General Permit.

13. Who can I contact with questions?

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