



City of Ashland Building Safety Division

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Policies / Interpretations / Procedures

BD-PP-0008

DISCHARGE FROM HOT TUBS, SPAS, AND SWIMMING POOLS

Policy Summary:

Specifies the approved method for disposal of waste water from hot tubs, spas, and swimming pools.

Background:

There have been questions regarding the most appropriate method for disposal of the discharge from hot tubs, spas, and swimming pools. Under provisions of the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, the Building Official is charged with the responsibility of determining the routing of the discharge of plumbing fixtures. Although some hot tubs do not technically qualify as plumbing fixtures, the code implies that the Building Official should also be responsible for regulating this discharge.

Discussion:

Section 813.0 of the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC) states that piping carrying swimming pool waste water must be discharged through an indirect waste. There is no further clarification for swimming pools, spas or hot tubs. Recent input from the City's environmental staff and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) indicates the following:

- DEQ has adopted management practices for the disposal of chlorinated water from swimming pools and hot tubs which state that the best option is to discharge to the sanitary sewer
- DEQ's position is that chlorinated water should not be discharged into the storm water system or a stream. Backflush water from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer. The water from the pool, hot tub or spa should not show any detectable levels of chlorine because chlorine is harmful to fish and other aquatic life even at low concentrations. Also, the discharge of water from hot tubs and spas could cause thermal pollution of the receiving stream.

Policy:

Chlorinated water from swimming pools, spas and hot tubs shall be discharged to the sanitary sewer. If the building official determines that discharge to the sanitary sewer is not possible, other alternatives may be approved by the building official in accordance with DEQ's current management practices (see Disposal of Chlorinated Water from Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs at the DEQ website www.deq.state.or.us).