

## Did You Know?

It is a violation of the City of Sugar Land's Development Code Chapter 11– Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control to drain chlorinated water from your swimming pools to the storm drain.

*Be sure you know how your pool maintenance service is disposing of your pool water and filter backwash. They **must** follow all discharge requirements set forth by the City.*



*For more information on stormwater quality management visit:*

[www.sugarlandtx.gov/332/Stormwater-Management-Program](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/332/Stormwater-Management-Program)

*To report an illicit discharge contact:*

3-1-1 or 281-275-2900  
311@sugarlandtx.gov  
Environmental & Neighborhood Services  
City of Sugar Land

City of  
Sugar Land



**Guidelines  
for Proper  
Swimming  
Pool Drainage**

## The Problem

A common misconception is that water running off streets and into a storm drain goes to a wastewater treatment plant. It does not. In fact, **stormwater usually receives no treatment.** Only sanitary sewer water (from toilets, showers, sinks, etc.) flows to the wastewater plant for treatment. Stormwater is not treated and it flows to the closest lake or waterway in our City. When swimming pools are drained to the street, the water flows into the storm sewer system and can adversely affect aquatic life in our lakes and creeks.

Swimming pool water contains chemicals which can harm our waterways when it is discharged improperly. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill in the spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. Anything going into our storm drains besides rainwater contributes to stormwater pollution.

## It's Simple!

There are two options for draining your swimming pool. Please note that whichever method you choose, you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

Here's how:

1. Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun without adding any chlorine; or use a chemical dechlorination additive.
2. Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool test kit.

## Option 1: Your Lawn The Preferred Discharge Method

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, **only if:**

- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property;
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other conveyance; and
- You do not cause harm to the environment.



## Option 2: The Storm Drain

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drains **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:

- The pool water has been dechlorinated;
- The pH of the water is between 6 and 9;
- The water is free of algae and contaminants;
- There is no discharge of filter media; and
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.

## Filter Backwash

- Reuse water and reduce your landscape water needs by discharging backwash water to vegetated areas on your property.
- Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub or over a lawn or other vegetated area.
- Use a separation tank for Diatomaceous Earth (DE) and Cellulose Fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers.
- Old DE filter or fiber materials can be dried, bagged and placed in your garbage receptacle.