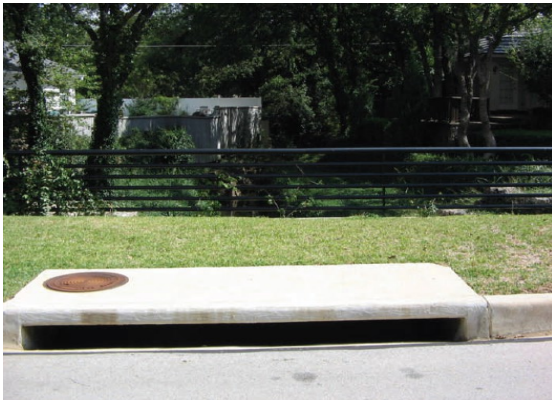


**What's wrong with draining filter backwash or pool water to the street or storm drain?**

Street and storm drains lead to creeks, drainage waterways, and our lakes. Chlorine, bromine, algacides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, bacteria, and other chemicals in the pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. 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. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.



**Know the Law:**

*Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your pool maintenance service. Be sure you know how your service is disposing of your pool or spa water and the filter backwash. They **must** follow all discharge requirements set forth by the City.*

*Do not discharge filter backwash or chlorinated pool water to a street or storm drain!*

*Protect our drainage ways, creeks, and lakes.*

*Our Water, Our Environment  
- Our Responsibility*

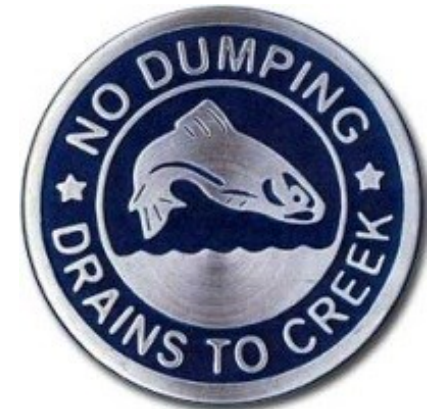


*City of Abilene*  
*Stormwater Services Division*

P.O. Box 60  
555 Walnut Street  
Abilene, Texas 79604-0060  
325-676-6281  
[www.abilenestormwater.com](http://www.abilenestormwater.com)



**Guidelines for Proper  
Swimming Pool  
& Filter Backwash  
Water Disposal**



## It's all very simple!

There are three options for draining your swimming pool. Please note that whichever method you choose, you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs. Here's how:

- \* Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5-10 days without adding any chlorine; or
- \* Use a chemical dechlorination additive (contact your local pool store for options).
- \* Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.



### Option 1: Your Lawn

#### *The Preferred Discharge Method*

Drain **dechlorinated** water to a vegetated area (i.e. grass lawn, garden, etc.) or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground if, **and only if...**

- \* You do not cause flooding of your neighbour's property or any other adjacent property.
- \* The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain).
- \* You do not cause harm to the environment.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry ground, or soak into mulched areas.

### Option 2: The Sanitary Sewer

Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer. Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer that can be used once the pool water has been **dechlorinated**.

Follow these steps:

- \* Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub.
- \* Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps **no more than 20 gallons per minute**.
- \* Pump the water from the pool or spa to the cleanout or indoor drain.
- \* Replace all cleanout covers when finished

DO NOT drain swimming pool or spa water to your SEPTIC SYSTEM as it may cause system failure.

It is not advisable to connect a hose to your indoor toilet to drain your swimming pool or spa. In most cases, water being pumped from your pool will drain faster than the time needed for flushing and refilling of the commode.

If you have questions regarding discharging to the sanitary sewer system contact the City of Abilene Water Utilities Department at 676-6000.

### Option 3: The Storm Drain

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

- \* Other disposal methods (i.e. sanitary sewer or landscaping) are not possible
- \* The pool/spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- \* The pH of the water is between 6 and 9.
- \* There is no discharge of filter media or filter backwash.
- \* There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.
- \* Discharge water will not pond on or flow to neighboring properties.

### Filter Backwash

**NEVER** discharge filter backwash to the storm drain system (road, alleys, etc.). It is a violation of City of Abilene Ordinances. This practice is illegal and could result in enforcement.

- \* Filter backwash must be collected, contained and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- \* Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub, or over a lawn or other vegetated area.
- \* Use a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps **20 gallons or less per minute**.