

Swimming Pool Water Discharge



As you sit by the pool staying cool in the sweltering Texas heat, did you know that the water in your pool could be a source of pollution?

Without realizing it, you could be polluting our waterways by draining your swimming pool into the street or directly into a storm drain.

Even though it is safe for you and your family to splash around in it, swimming pool water may contain significant levels of chlorine or other chemicals used in treating, disinfecting, or cleaning your swimming pool that can be harmful to aquatic organisms.

Anything discharged into storm drains, including swimming pool water, will eventually end up in the nearest creeks, streams or area lakes without being treated. Once in our waterways these substances may be toxic to aquatic life and wildlife. Additional treatment is also required to remove these pollutants from area lakes where we get our drinking water supply.

Where should you drain the water from your swimming pool and how do you get approval to do so?

The City of Burleson does not have a permitting process for swimming pool water discharge, however, you still need to obtain approval by calling the City of Burleson environmental services division at 817-426-9842 or the public works department at 817-426-9839.

When calling, provide your name, address, telephone number, the date you plan on draining the pool, and the date you plan on refilling the pool. You will also be asked questions regarding the area in which you live. This information will enable personnel to provide you with the proper guidance for draining your swimming pool.

Discharge options are:

- Swimming pool water may be discharged onto the owners property if the water does not run off onto any adjoining properties or cause stagnant water or flooding.
- After approval has been given by the public works department, swimming pool water may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. The city must ensure the sewer system can accommodate the additional swimming pool water discharge. Non-approved discharges may result in fines due to the potential of overflowing the sewer system. The public works department can be reached by calling 817-426-9839.
- After approval has been given by the environmental services division, swimming pool water may be discharged into storm sewer system. Environmental services can be reached by calling 817-426-9842.

In order to obtain permission from the environmental services division to discharge swimming pool water into the storm sewer system, the water must have no detectable level of chlorine and a neutral pH. Please follow these important tips before discharging into the storm sewer system:

- Stop adding chemicals to the water at least 3 days prior to discharging. For highly chlorinated pools, wait longer or add a chlorine neutralizer.
- Remove vegetation, debris or other pollutants from the water prior to discharging.
- Please make sure your discharge hose is long enough to reach the curb to prevent erosion of the soil.
- Never discharge water from swimming pools into the storm sewer system if doing so would cause stagnant water or flooding.

Important Notice: If you have a salt water pool, you can not discharge swimming pool water into the storm sewer system.

How can I discharge swimming pool filter backwash water?

Swimming pool filter backwash water must be discharged into the sanitary sewer system.

Are there any other requirements I need to be aware of for maintaining my swimming pool?

Please maintain your swimming pool in a safe and secured condition. Every outdoor swimming pool must be enclosed or completely surrounded by a fence or wall that is at least four feet tall. Any gates must be self-closing and self-latching.

Do not allow the water to become stagnant, foul, nauseous, offensive or unpleasant, or provide harborage for mosquitoes, flies, or other insects. Do not allow the clarity of the water to degrade to a point that the main drain is not visible from the water surface in normal lighting conditions.

Please be aware that there are additional requirements for operating a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa in the City of Burleson.

For more information, call the environmental services division at 817-426-9842 or the public works department at 817-426-9839.

