

A young child with light hair, wearing blue-tinted swimming goggles, is smiling and floating in a swimming pool. The child is on a large, green and white inflatable ring. The pool water is bright blue, and the background shows a sunny outdoor pool setting with lounge chairs and trees.

A RESOURCE GUIDE:

## How to drain or backwash your pool WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

### **EVEN** pool water on streets drains to creeks!

Pool owners may be tempted to discharge chlorinated or saline pool water into the street and gutter that leads to a storm drain. However, the purpose of the storm drain system is to protect against flooding and water damage by quickly removing rain water from our streets. This water gets no treatment and ultimately drains into our creeks, lakes, and rivers. The City of Burleson has ordinances and programs to reduce pollutants into our storm drains which is why the disposal of chlorinated pool water, saline pool water, or pool backwash to the storm drain system is prohibited. Remember to dispose of unwanted pool chemicals as household hazardous waste.

THE CITY OF  
**BURLESON**  
TEXAS

For more information, contact the Burleson Environmental Services at 817-426-9848 or [environmentalservices@burlesontx.com](mailto:environmentalservices@burlesontx.com)

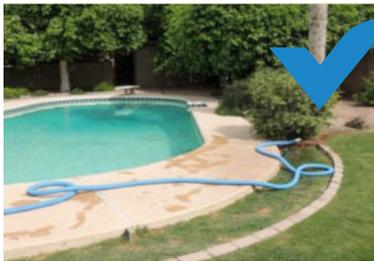
# How to drain or backwash your pool WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

NO



- Do not discharge chlorinated pool water, saline pool water, or pool backwash into the street or gutter because this water drains into our creeks, lakes, and rivers without being treated first.
- Remember to dispose of unwanted pool chemicals at a Burleson Hazardous Household Waste collection event, or at the ECC. [fortworthtexas.gov/env/ecc/](http://fortworthtexas.gov/env/ecc/)

YES!



## YOUR YARD

- Drain your pool or spa water to your vegetated landscape, lawn or rocky areas on your property that allow the water to percolate into the ground.
- Salt or saline pool water contains higher concentrations of salts that can be more damaging to plants and soils. Consider location of discharge as some plants are more salt-tolerant than others.
- Remember to move the drain hose frequently.
- Be sure the pool water does not flow onto your neighbor's property or collect in any areas that may attract mosquitoes.

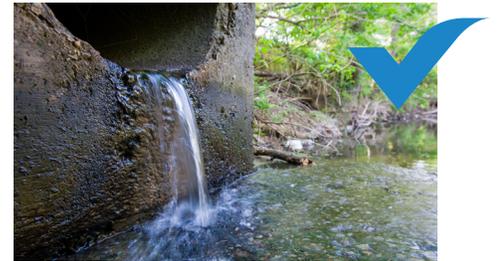
YES!



## THE SANITARY SEWER

- Contact the Water Department to check local procedures.
- Locate the sanitary sewer clean-out on your property and remove the cap.
- Make sure that the pool water is near neutral (pH 6-8), and chlorine is less than 0.01 mg/L.
- Run the drainage hose from a submersible pump in the pool to the clean-out pipe and insert the hose a few inches into the pipe. Be sure to secure the drain hose so it won't pop out. Turn on the pump and check to make sure no water is backing up into the house. The recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute.
- Replace the sanitary sewer clean-out cover when finished.
- Never drain pool or spa to a septic system.

YES!



## STORM DRAIN SEWER IF

If other options are not possible, DECHLORINATED pool water, with a pH of 6-8.5, from private residential pools may be emptied into the storm drain.

Water must be clear. No salt water, saline water, or backwash can be emptied into the storm drain system.

Contact Environmental Services for more information.

### NOTES:

Where there is no sanitary sewer and it is not possible to discharge the pool or spa water to the ground, a professional pool-draining service must be hired to collect all water for on-site disposal at an approved location.

For public or commercial pools: Any discharge of water from a public pool must abide with RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SWIMMING POOLS AND OTHER RELATED FACILITIES found at [dshs.texas.gov/PoolSpa/](http://dshs.texas.gov/PoolSpa/). All discharges from public pools must be piped to the sanitary sewer.