

### Maintain and Drain Your Pool Wisely

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 or the public works department at 817-447-5410.**

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.

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

Discharge options are:

- Swimming pool water may be discharged onto the owner's 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 817-447-5410 ext 253.

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### Got yard waste?



**Improper disposal of yard cuttings could land you in trouble with the city.**

It's happening in every neighborhood, maybe at your own house, and you probably don't know that you, or your neighbors, are breaking the law.

After cutting the grass, many people blow or sweep grass clippings into the street or to the curblin. But it is a violation of City of Burleson code to discharge yard waste into the storm sewer system (including streets, curbs, ditches, manmade channels, and storm drains).

To learn about proper disposal of yard waste, please call environmental services at 817-447-5410 ext 269 or visit the environmental services webpage at [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).

**To report a violation regarding yard waste in the streets, call code compliance at 817-447-5410 or fill out a form online at [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).**





## Volunteer With Us!



Each time it rains, water washes over our streets, driveways, and yards picking up pollutants along the way and flowing into our storm drains. This runoff may contain pollutants such as motor oil, yard clippings, pet waste, litter, lawn chemicals, or other toxins, which can pollute our waterways as well as clog culverts, which can lead to flooding. Known as "Non-Point Source Pollution," it is the largest threat to our waters today.

Contrary to what many people think, storm drains do not lead to wastewater treatment plants. Storm drains carry untreated storm water directly into area creeks, rivers and lakes.

To help increase awareness of where debris goes after entering storm drains, the City of Burleson and Keep Burleson Beautiful are sponsoring the storm drain marker installation program.

The marked message, "No Dumping, Drains to Creek" on storm drains is there to remind citizens not to dump waste into storm drains or contribute more pollutants to ordinary storm water runoff by littering, over-fertilizing or sweeping yard debris into the street.

"This is a great way to get involved in your community," said Bianca Chafin, environmental programs specialist for the City of Burleson. "People can get outside, meet their neighbors and learn how they can prevent pollution in their neighborhood."

Participating in the storm drain marker installation program is easy. The city provides all supplies needed to mark the drains. Volunteers will be given a map of their neighborhood and instructions to mark storm drains within their neighborhood. Volunteers will place door hangers on area houses to inform residents of the program and the importance of protecting the community's waterways.

**To volunteer, call environmental services at 817-447-5410 ext 269 or e-mail [bchafin@burlesontx.com](mailto:bchafin@burlesontx.com).**

## Swimming pool water discharge options continued...

- 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 817-447-5410 ext 269.

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.

## 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.

**For more information on storm water pollution prevention, call environmental services at 817-447-5410 ext 269 or visit [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).**