

What's wrong with draining my pool, spa, or filter backwash to the street or storm drain?

Street drains and storm drains lead to rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks. Chlorine bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in 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 streambed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

Report Illegal Discharges to the Storm Sewer System!

**The City of Odessa
Stormwater Pollution
Reporting Hotline
432-335-3290**

KNOW THE LAW:

It is a violation of the City of Odessa's Code of Ordinances to drain chlorinated water or filter backwash from your swimming pools or spas to the storm sewer system.

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.

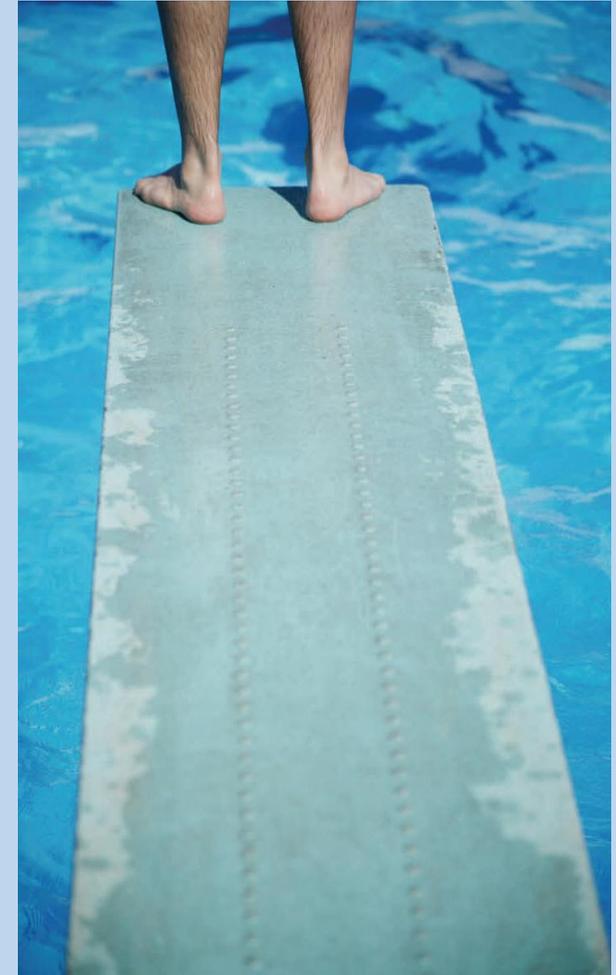
**Our Water, Our Environment,
Our Responsibility**



**CITY OF ODESSA
STORMWATER SERVICES**

**P.O. Box 4398
411 W. 8TH STREET
ODESSA, TEXAS 79760
432-335-3290**

**STORMWATER
POLLUTION PREVENTION:
SWIMMING POOLS &
SPAS**



**GUIDELINES FOR PROPER
SWIMMING POOL
OR
SPA DRAINAGE**

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 is how you do it:

- 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 waters to the grass/turf/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 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 (i.e., storm drain).
- You do not cause harm to the environment.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry grounds, 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, which 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 50 gallons per minute.
- 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 are unsure whether or not the discharge from your pool will create a problem in the sanitary sewer system or wastewater treatment plant, contact the City of Odessa Stormwater Services Department at 432.335.3290.



Option 3: The Storm Drain

Swimming pool 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 or spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- The pH of the water is between 6 & 9.
- There is no discharge of filter media.
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.
- Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.



Filter Backwash

NEVER discharge filter backwash to the storm sewer system. It is a violation of the City of Odessa Code of Ordinances. This practice is illegal and you can be fined.

Disposing of filter rinse water and backwash:

- 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 separation tank for diatomaceous earth (DE) and cellulose fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers.
- For water conservation, direct the clean water back into the pool.