

## DEFINITIONS

**Stormwater Runoff**— rainwater which flows off of impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots and streets through the Storm Sewer system and into local waterways.

**Storm Sewer**— A series of pipes, catch basins and inlets which conveys excess stormwater away from streets and into local creeks, streams or other waterbodies.

**Sanitary Sewer** - A system of pipes which carries wastewater from businesses and homes to a water treatment facility. This water is cleaned and then released back into a local waterway.

**Sanitary Sewer Clean Out**— is a capped pipe which provides access to a sanitary sewer line, allowing people to clean out blockages in their sanitary sewer line.

**Backwash**— the process of thoroughly cleaning your swimming pool's filter by a method of reversing the flow of water to flush out contaminants. It is a violation of city ordinance to discharge backwash into the Storm Sewer system. A backwash system must be plumbed to the sanitary sewer system.

**Chlorine**— Chemical used as a sanitizing agent for swimming pools and spas.

**pH**— This is the measure of acidity or alkalinity of a substance. This is normally expressed on a scale of 0-14 with 7 being neutral.

**Saline (saltwater) pool**— A pool system which uses regular table salt to produce chlorine to disinfect pool water.

This brochure is part of a series designed by the Stormwater Management Division to inform our citizens about Stormwater Pollution Prevention and Flood Safety Awareness

Topics Include:

Pet Waste Disposal

Landscape and Garden Maintenance

Citizens Guide to Flood Awareness

Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Apartment Complex Residents

Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Apartment Residents and Home Renters



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# Stormwater Management Division

*Protecting Arlington's Waterways*



# A Citizen's Guide To Swimming Pools and Spas

The City of Arlington has a total land area of 100 square miles. In order to alleviate flooding over this large area the city maintains a storm drainage system called the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4. It was designed to divert excess rainwater to the many creeks and streams found in the City of Arlington such as Rush Creek, Johnson Creek, Fish Creek, Lynn Creek, Bowman Branch Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Upper and Lower Village Creek and the West Fork of the Trinity River Tributaries. As the runoff water from rain events flows over impervious surfaces like streets, parking lots, driveways as well as rooftops, yards and garden areas it picks up pollutants along the way and deposits them in our local waterways which is then transported to Lake Arlington, the Trinity River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico.

It is important to monitor the quality of the water which flows through the City's drainage system. Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool and spa 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 of stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills. Large quantities of these chemicals can cause fish kills, destabilize fish populations which can effect the local wildlife food chain. These chemicals can also lead to higher water treatment costs for drinking water.



## There are three options for draining your swimming pool or spa.

Whichever option you chose, remember you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

- Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5 to 10 days without adding any chlorine or other chemicals
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive: Contact your local pool store for options
- Use a simple chlorine test kit to Verify water is dechlorinated.



### Drain pool water to yard or landscaped areas.

- Allow water to soak into the grassy or landscaped areas of your yard. This will filter out any residual pollutants.
- Don't cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area should be sufficient to prevent yard erosion and sediment runoff into a ditch, creek, or storm drain system.



### Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain system after the following conditions are met:

- The pool or spa water is completely **dechlorinated**.
- The pH of the water is between 6.5 and 9.
- Do not discharge acid cleaning wastes, filter media or other pool chemicals.
- Ensure discharged water will not create puddles of standing water. This could provide breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- Drainage hoses **must stay** on your property and drain directly to the street. Water allowed to flow onto neighboring properties may cause flooding and property damage.



### Drain pool water to the sanitary sewer system.

- 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. Have a 2-inch gap between the hose and the clean out pipe.
- 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** it may cause system failure.

### Saline Pool (saltwater) disposal options:

- Drain to a vegetated area on the pools owners property. However discharging saltwater to landscape areas can significantly damage vegetation and soils due to the high salt content.
- Drain to the sanitary sewer system.

**Never** drain a saline pool to the storm drain system. The high salt content can be damaging to the water quality and the storm drain infrastructure components.

It is a violation of city ordinance to discharge any swimming pool or spa chemicals into the storm drain system.

Contact the Action Center at 817-459-6777 or go online to [www.arlingtontx.gov/contact](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/contact) to report a violation.

**Do no harm to your neighbors property, city property or the local water quality.**