

Filter Backwash

NEVER discharge filter backwash to the storm drain system. It is a violation of the Federal, State and City regulations. This practice is illegal and may result in fines and/or jail.

Disposing of filter rinse water and backwash:

- Obtain written authorization from TWU.
- Use the discharge flow rate determined by TWU to avoid back-ups or overflows.
- 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.

Know the Law

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

Remember, 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 dis-charge requirements set forth by the City.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

A
comprehensive guide
to properly draining
your swimming pool
or spa



Report Illegal Discharges to the Storm Sewer System

The City of Texarkana, Texas Stormwater Management
903.798.3948 | stormwater@txkusa.org
www.ci.texarkana.tx.us
919 Elm Street Texarkana, TX 75501



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR FRIENDS
AT THE CITY OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS

Why does it matter how I drain my pool, spa or filter my backwash?

Street drains and storm drains lead to rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks. Anything discharged into street/storm drains, including swimming pool water, flows directly into the nearest creeks, streams or area lakes. The chemicals in the discharged water become a source of storm-water pollution, which can affect human health and increase the costs of treating water to safe drinking standards.

Improperly draining your swimming pool into the street or directly into a storm drain can harm aquatic organisms. 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 stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

To Drain Your Pool, Spa or Fountain

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's how:

- Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for five-10 days without adding any chlorine; or
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive (contact a local pool store for options).
- Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.

Option 1: Your Lawn

Drain dechlorinated water 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 runoff onto or 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).

- Care is taken to not create puddles of standing water, which could potentially provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- You do not cause harm to the environment. Discharging saltwater to landscape can significantly damage vegetation and soils due to high salt content.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry ground or soak into mulched areas.

Option 2: The Sanitary Sewer

The following requirements for draining to the Sanitary Sewer **apply to pool water only** - anything else is prohibited.

To drain your pool to the sanitary sewer you **must** have prior written approval from Texarkana Water Utilities. 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 the following steps:

- Verify the pH is between 5.5 and 10.5 S.U.
- 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 the specific maximum flow rate that was determined for you by Texarkana Water Utilities. Call (903) 798-3800.
- 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 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 Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU) at 903-798-3800.

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. your lawn or sanitary sewer) are not possible. The pool is **not** a saltwater pool.
- The pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- The pH of the water is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- There is no discharge of filter media.
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes, algae or sediments.
- Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.

Different Types of Connections

