Swimming Pool Information
Guidelines for Draining Your Pool or Spa

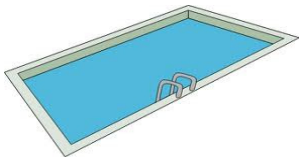
Pool chemicals can be deadly to our local waterways. You can help keep our creeks, streams and rivers clean by properly draining your swimming pool or spa.

Whenever possible, please drain your pool, spa, filter backwash, and pool wastewater into the sanitary sewer cleanout or down a drain leading to the sanitary sewer (this will not increase your utility bill.) Water flow into the sanitary sewer should not exceed 20 gallons per minute and should be pumped during low flow times of midnight – 5am, or noon – 5pm.

If it is not possible to drain the water into the sanitary sewer, you may drain the water onto grassy areas following these guidelines:

- Note: draining saltwater onto grass and landscape can damage plants and soil due to high salt content.
- De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated for 7 to 10 days before you drain the pool/spa.
- Drain the water directly onto the grass in your yard. Be a good neighbor – allow the water to only drain onto your property so that it does not cause erosion or flooding in your neighbor's yard.
- Drain the pool water slowly to allow it to be absorbed into the ground and to prevent erosion and ponding. Standing water can lead to mosquito problems in as little as 48 to 72 hours and may be a code violation.
- Maintenance discharges from swimming pools, fountains and spas such as filter backwash, acid wash, and plaster wastes shall never be discharged to the public right-of-way or storm drain system.

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



When 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.
- To conserve water, direct the clean water back into the pool.

DID YOU KNOW? . . .

- High levels of chlorine in pool water can kill wildlife, fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals.
- A saltwater swimming pool system uses pool salt to make chlorine. The chemicals and salt in saltwater pools can kill plants, wildlife, and aquatic animals such as fish and crayfish.
- Stormwater drainage systems (catch basins in the streets, ditches, etc.) drain rain water directly to creeks and streams.

KEEP OUR CREEKS, STREAMS AND RIVERS CLEAN! Remember…

- Drain pools and spas into the sanitary sewer whenever possible.
- Drain only de-chlorinated water onto grassy areas. Drain the water slowly.
- And **NEVER** drain pool and spa water directly into street drains or drainage ditches – they lead directly to our creeks, streams and rivers.
- Questions? Contact the City of Pflugerville Public Works Department at 512-251-9935.