

Need More Information?

Pools, Spas, & Fountains

Residential:

Your local pool or spa supply store or manufacturers can give you information or advice.

Permits, Inspections, Complaints:

City of Abilene

Building Inspections: 325-676-6273

Environmental Health: 325-437-4590

Stormwater Utility: 325-676-6281

Public Sewer Agency:

City of Abilene

Water Department: 325-676-6042

Septic Tank Questions:

City of Abilene

Environmental Health: 325-437-4590

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Region 3:

Small Business and Local Government Assistance: 325-698-6104

City of Abilene

P.O. Box 60
555 Walnut Street
Abilene, Texas 79604-0060

*Protect our drainage ways,
creeks, and lakes.*

*Our Water, Our Environment -
Our Responsibility*



*Do not discharge filter backwash or
chlorinated water to a street or
storm drain!*



**Guidelines for
Proper Disposal of
Swimming Pool,
Spa, Fountain, &
Filter Backwash**

Water



To drain your pool, spa, or fountain -

There are two 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 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** 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 flooding of your neighbour'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 ground, or soak into mulched areas.



Option 2: The Storm Drain

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:

- * Disposal to your lawn is not possible
- * The pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- * The pH of the water is between 6 and 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.

Discharges of chlorinated swimming pool, spa, fountain water, or filter backwash to the City's drainage system could result in enforcement actions up to and including citations, per City of Abilene Municipal Drainage Ordinance Division 9, Sec. 32-335 thru Sec. 32-342.

Filter Backwash

Never discharge filter backwash to the storm sewer system.

- * Filter backwash or chlorinated water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- * Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub, or over a lawn or other vegetated area.
- * Use a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps **20 gallons or less per minute**.

What's wrong with draining backwashed water to the street or storm drain?

Street drainage and storm drains lead into streams, rivers, and other drainage waterways. Chlorine, bromine, algacides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in the 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.