

Q: Why can't we drain pool water or filter backwash into the storm drains?

A: Storm drains lead to natural waterways, such as creeks, streams, and, in our case, Lewisville Lake. Many chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. In addition, diatomaceous earth can affect the gravel beds of waterways, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and clogging fish gills.

To report illegal discharges to the stormwater system:

**City of The Colony
Public Works
972-625-2741**

#DYK?

It is a violation of both the City of The Colony's Code of Ordinances and Texas Administrative Code to drain chlorinated water or filter backwash from your pools or spas into the stormwater system.

Q: What if I have a saltwater pool?

A: Again, storm drains lead to natural waterways, such as creeks, streams, and lakes. Infusing salt into these natural systems would be **bad**. Nor can saltwater be used in your garden or lawn.

Saltwater pool owners should drain saltwater into the household sanitary sewer cleanout, usually located near the center of your home, sometimes in the flowerbeds.

Remember: Salt does not break down or evaporate. The only way to lower the salt concentration of your swimming pool is to dilute it, which means partially draining your pool and refilling it with fresh water.

Public Works Department
City of The Colony
1 Harris Plaza, The Colony TX 75056
972-624-3129 • pubworks@thecolonytx.gov



Help prevent stormwater pollution:

Guidelines for swimming pools & spas



OK, so what are my options?

There are two preferred options for draining your pool or spa (shown at right), both of which include the need to **dechlorinate** the water before draining. Here's how:

- Natural dechlorination:
Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5 to 10 days without adding any chlorine;
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive, typically available at pool supply stores; and/or,
- Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.



Option No. 1: Your Lawn

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass, turf, or any area of your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, under the following conditions:

- Do not cause flooding of any adjacent properties;
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and/or runoff into a ditch or creek; and,
- You do not cause harm to the environment.

Option No. 2: Sanitary Sewer

Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer system which can be used to drain your pool once the water has been **dechlorinated**:

- 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.

Filter Backwash info

NEVER discharge filter backwash to the storm sewer system. It is a violation of the city's Code of Ordinances.

Rather, filter backwash must be collected, contained and discharged to the sanitary sewer. Cartridge filters should be rinsed over a sink, tub, or vegetated area.

- Pump the water from the pool or spa to the cleanout or indoor drain. Replace all cleanout covers when finished.

Note: DO NOT drain swimming pool water to your septic system as it may cause system failure. It is also not advisable to connect a hose to your indoor toilet.

If you are unsure whether or not the discharge from your pool will create a problem, call us at 972-624-3129.