

**What's wrong with draining  
my pool, spa or filter backwash  
to the street or storm drain?**

Street drains and storm drains lead to rivers, lakes, streams, and brooks.

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 spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.



**Town of Burlington  
Department of Public Works  
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**781-270-1670 (DPW)  
781-270-1655 (Conservation)**

[www.burlington.org/  
community\\_development/  
stormwater\\_management.php](http://www.burlington.org/community_development/stormwater_management.php)



**STORMWATER  
POLLUTION PREVENTION:**

**SWIMMING  
POOLS & SPAS**



**GUIDELINES FOR  
PROPER SWIMMING  
POOL OR SPA  
DRAINAGE**

## *It's all very simple!*

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 supply store for options),
- Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.

## *Know the law*

It is a violation of the Town of Burlington's Illicit Discharges and Detection Bylaw to discharge chlorinated swimming pool water into the municipal storm drain system. The bylaw also requires that pools be drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance.

## Option 1: Your Lawn

The Preferred Discharge Method

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass/turf, or other area on your property that will allow the water to percolate or soak into the ground, **if and only if...**

- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's or any other adjacent property.
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, brook, or other conveyance (i.e. storm drain).
- Water is not discharged directly to wetlands, streams or other water bodies.



**Mill Pond Reservoir**

## Option 2: Storm Drain

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

- The preferred method is not possible.
- The pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- Water pH is between 6 and 9.
- No discharge of filter media.
- No discharge of acid cleaning wastes or solutions.
- Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.
- No discharge during rain events.

