



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR POOLS, SPAS AND FOUNTAINS

Water from pools, spas and fountains is often treated with chemicals that may cause harm when they are transmitted into the environment by stormwater runoff. Draining and/or backwashing pools, spas and fountains properly is important in preventing stormwater pollution and avoiding flooding and damage to City rights-of-way.

Backwashing into a
storm drain
or onto a street, alley or other
City of Tempe
right-of-way is prohibited.



Properly dispose of chemicals
and empty containers.



Drain pool, spa and fountain water
to desert landscape, lawn,
retention basins or rocky areas
on your property.

Guidelines

- Properly dispose of chemicals and empty containers.
- Before draining pools, spas and fountains, ensure the water measures zero for chlorine and bromine on a pool test kit.
- You can drain or backwash your pool, spa or fountain to the surface of your own property or into your home's sanitary sewer cleanout.
 - Drain pool, spa and fountain water to desert landscape, lawn, retention basins or rocky areas on your property and allow the water to percolate into the ground.
 - Use caution when applying pool water to plants.
 - Move the drain hose frequently to prevent stagnant water areas, which may attract mosquitoes.
 - Be sure to retain pool water on your own property.
- When discharging to the sanitary sewer:
 - Use caution to prevent soil, sediment, rock, sand, debris or other solid material from entering the sanitary sewer, which could lead to an overflow.
 - Secure the drain hose inside the cleanout in a manner that will prevent it from dislodging.
 - Use a pump with a flow rate of less than 12 gallons per minute.
 - Monitor closely to ensure water does not back up into your home or overflow the cleanout.
- Pool water must never be discharged to alleys. However, residential pools of less than 35,000 gallons may be drained to other rights-of-way.
 - Ensure pool, spa and fountain water is clear, free of debris and measures zero for chlorine or bromine on a pool test kit.
 - Use a pump of no more than 1.5 horsepower.
 - Monitor drainage to avoid flooding, damage and traffic hazards.
 - Draining pool water into a sanitary sewer manhole installed in the street is prohibited.
 - Contact Environmental Services at 480-350-2678 for authorization before draining a residential pool of greater than 35,000 gallons, or a commercial pool.

Questions? Call Tempe 311 at
480-350-4311.

tempe.gov/stormwater

