

## How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices, or BMPs, are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline, and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMPs in this brochure.

## What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-2678.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go on line at: <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>



P.O. Box 5002  
Tempe, AZ 85280  
480-350-2678  
fax 480-350-2615



**Environmentally Friendly Discharges from Spas, Pools & Fountains**

Environmental Services Division

Storm Water Hotline  
480-350-2811

# Environmentally Friendly Discharges from Spas, Pools, & Fountains

## Do you own, operate or maintain a spa, pool, or fountain?

If so, you should be aware of guidelines to be followed in maintaining and draining any swimming pool. Despite the fact that we immerse ourselves in it, the water from pools and spas is far from chemically clean. Chlorine, nutrients, pH, and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a severe negative impact on the plant and aquatic life in our streams and lakes. It is highly recommended that all discharge water be kept on your property and used for landscape irrigation. This may require discharging intermittently for several days if you have limited landscape area to prevent runoff onto the right-of-way or onto a neighbor's property.

Pool drainage water may be discharged to the storm drain system or street when it is de-chlorinated and pollutant free, if it does not create a nuisance or safety hazard, and if it is properly permitted. Backwash water can only be discharged to your property.

Even at extremely low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life.



Drainage water must be de-chlorinated prior to discharge. This may be accomplished by not adding chlorine or any other chemicals for at least 48 hours prior to discharge, but be sure to also test your pool water for chlorine residual prior to discharge.

The water from spas, pools, and fountains shall not be discharged into the street or storm water system without first obtaining a permit from the Engineering Division Pool Discharge Hotline at (480) 350-8521 or by visiting the website at: <http://www.tempe.gov/poolpermits>

The permit must be obtained at least 48 hours prior to discharge. Failure to obtain a permit may result in a citation. The permit shall be posted at the discharge site and easily visible from the street.

**While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.**

