

**Some of the most common sources are:**

- Pet waste
- Car oil leaks
- Fertilizers from farms and gardens
- Failing septic tanks
- Chemicals from residential car washes

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

HELP KEEP YOUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.  
MAKE SURE ONLY RAIN GOES INTO THE  
STORM DRAINS!

## More storm drain questions?

Still have questions about how this all works? Unsure if a chemical you're using is safe for storm drains? Call us at 480-350-4311 for answers.

**To report illegal discharges to storm drains, call 480-350-2811 or visit: [www.tempe.gov/stormwater](http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater)**

Public Works Department  
Environmental Services Section  
P.O. Box 5002  
Tempe, AZ 85280



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480-350-4311

# Responsible Discharges

## From Spas, Pools And Fountains



# Did you know that water from your pool, spa or fountain can impact water quality?

Pool water is heavily treated with chemicals to adjust chlorine, nutrients, and pH to make it swimmable. These chemicals often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, and even copper to control algae, which can be harmful to plant and aquatic life if they enter our stormwater system.

The improper draining of pools into the public right-of-way can cause flooding, impede car and pedestrian traffic and cause damage to public streets and alleys.

That is why it is so important to properly drain your pool, spa or fountain.

## Guidelines for water discharge

Pools less than 35,000 gallons may be drained without a permit. The City of Tempe suggests the following guidelines to dispose of this water in a responsible way:

### 1. Reuse your water for landscape irrigation.

This is the recommended and most effective way to manage your pool drainage. Remove chlorine sources for 48 hours for use on more sensitive plants. If you have limited landscape, this may require discharging over several days to prevent runoff onto the right-of-way or onto a neighbor's property.

### 2. Discharge into your residential sewer cleanout.

- Secure the drain hose inside the clean-out in a manner that will prevent it from popping out.
- Discharge using a pump no more than 1.5 horsepower.
- The recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute or less.
- Monitor closely to ensure water does not back up into your home or overflow the cleanout.



### 3. Discharge into the right-of-way or street.

- Ensure the water is clear and free of debris and pollutants, de-chlorinated/debrominated, measured on a pool test kit at "0". Call a reputable pool service or visit pool supply store for kit.
- Discharge using a pump no more than 1.5 horsepower.
- Drainage must be monitored to avoid flooding, damage and traffic hazards.
- Discharging to alleys is prohibited.
- Discharge of filter backwash to the right-of-way is prohibited.

Draining a pool over 35,000 gallons requires a permit.

Contact an Environmental Compliance Inspector at (480) 350-2678 to begin this process. Once you have the permit, the water can be drained onto your property or into the sewer system.



## Filter backwash

Filter backwash water cannot be discharged into public right-of-ways and can only be discharged to your sewer cleanout or on your property. If backwashing into the sewer cleanout, do not allow the passage of soil, sediment, rock, sand, debris or other solid material during the discharge. This could potentially create a sewer overflow in the street and onto your property.

## The significance of storm drains

The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. This water drains directly into our lakes, rivers and streambeds.

Since stormwater is not treated, it must be kept free of pollutants at its source. Water that washes over the ground during a rainstorm or street cleaning, for example, can pick up pollutants prior to entering the storm drain.

