

mississauga
livinggreen

Pool Water

Safe Water Practices
for Pool & Spa Owners



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**This brochure contains
important information
for safe and environmentally
responsible management
of pool and spa water**

- Pool water and the environment
- Pool water and City by-laws
- Draining your pool or spa
- Filter backwash water
- Chlorine or bromine treated pools and spas
- Saltwater pools and spas
- Safe disposal of pool chemicals
- Recycling centres in Mississauga
- What to do in case of a spill

Pool water and the environment

Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, salt and other products used to keep pool and spa water clear and sparkling clean can also be harmful to the environment if handled improperly. While great for pools and spas, in sufficient concentrations, these chemicals are toxic to aquatic life in local creeks, streams and other watercourses.

Problems can occur when pool chemicals are discharged into storm drains during regular or seasonal maintenance. The City of Mississauga routinely investigates contamination caused by improper discharge of pool and spa water into creeks, streams and ravines.

Did you know that, if you are improperly draining your swimming pool or spa into the storm drain, you could be harming your local creek or Lake Ontario?

Pool water and City by-laws

There are two by-laws to regulate the discharge of pool and spa water in Mississauga:

DEBRIS AND ANTI LITTERING BY-LAW 219-85
STORM SEWER USE BY-LAW 259-05

Under the Debris and Anti Littering By-law (219-85) there are strict conditions for discharge of pool and spa water including filter backwash. Filter backwash water should only be directed to the closest sanitary sewer connection on the pool owner's property. A plumbing permit is required from the City's Planning and Building Department prior to the installation of a direct connection to the sanitary sewer system for the purpose of discharging backwash water.

To contact the Plumbing Section please call **905-615-3200** ext. **4176** or consult the City website: **www.mississauga.ca/portal/services/planbuild**

Under the Storm Sewer Use By-law (259-05) it is illegal to discharge water to a storm drain that contains contaminants. If you discharge (or hire someone to discharge) water that exceeds the Storm Sewer Use By-law limits, you may be subject to enforcement action.

More detailed information including pool location, safety and licensing is available online at: **mississauga.ca/swimmingpools** or call **3-1-1** (if outside of City limits, dial **905-615-4311**).

Draining your pool or spa

In the springtime, the accumulated snow and rainwater on top of the pool cover or tarp may be discharged by a hose to the storm drain once all debris, leaves or pet waste have first been removed.

Filter backwash water

The water from routine backwashing of pool sand filters also contains sanitizing chemicals. The best place for sand filter backwash water is the sanitary sewer system.

Cartridge filters are available for purchase, which do not require backwashing for cleaning. Used filter cartridges may be placed at the curb with regular garbage for pick-up.

Chlorine or bromine treated pools and spas

If you own a chlorine or bromine swimming pool or spa, the water may be discharged to the storm drain **ONLY** if the water meets these conditions:

- It is free of chemicals in toxic amounts including, but not limited to, chlorine, bromine, hydrogen peroxide-based sanitizers, algaecides, fungicides, copper, silver, muriatic acid, soda ash and cyanuric acid. Remember, most pool and spa chemicals are toxic to aquatic organisms.
- It is free of debris, vegetation or algae
- It has a pH of between 6 and 9
- It has a chlorine concentration of no more than 1 ppm (1 mg/L)

To help to reduce chemical concentrations, stop adding chlorine and bromine 7-10 days before pumping down the pool and leave the cover off to allow exposure to sunlight.



Saltwater pools and spas

Water discharged from pools and spas sanitized by saltwater-generator systems contain elevated levels of sodium chloride or sodium bromide.

Because these salts cannot be removed from the water, saltwater pool and spa owners should direct all salt water discharges to sanitary sewer connection.

The Region of Peel suggests the following conditions for discharge to the sanitary sewer system:

- Direct the discharge from the pool to your nearest drain inside your house
- Limit the size of the discharge hose from the pool to 4 cm (1 1/2 inches) or less in diameter
- Discharge the water at a non-peak time such as evenings after 8 p.m. or weekends after 10 a.m.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW REGIONAL SANITARY DISCHARGE GUIDELINES MAY CAUSE SURCHARGES AND FLOODING IN BASEMENTS AND/OR IN NEARBY HOMES.

Please contact the Region of Peel Environmental Control at **905-791-7800** with any questions regarding sanitary sewer discharge.

Maintaining proper pool water chemistry according to your pool equipment manufacturer's instructions can reduce the need to drain the pool or spa and minimize chemical damage to your pool and equipment.

Safe disposal of pool chemicals

Leftover or expired pool chemicals are considered household hazardous waste and must be properly disposed of at one of the Region of Peel's Community Recycling Centres.

**ALWAYS USE EXTREME CAUTION
HANDLING POOL CHEMICALS!**

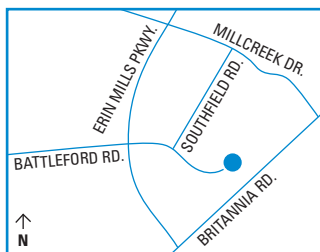
Recycling centres in Mississauga

For information on all waste management programs or services, please call Region of Peel Public Works at **905-791-9499** or visit **www.peelregion.ca/waste**.

Battleford Community Recycling Centre

2255 Battleford Rd., Mississauga L5N 8P6

Mon. to Sun., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Fewster Community Recycling Centre

1126 Fewster Dr., Mississauga L4W 2A4

Mon. to Sun., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



What to do in case of a spill

POOL CHEMICALS ARE HAZARDOUS

In the case of an environmental spill, report the spill immediately to the Region of Peel's 24-hour Spill Response Line at **905-791-7800** or to the Ministry of the Environment's Spills Action Centre (SAC) at **1-800-268-6060**.

Contact us

To notify the City of Mississauga or for further information about environmentally responsible maintenance and servicing of pools and spas:



Call 3-1-1 or if outside city limits, call 905-615-4311

Calls to 3-1-1 after regular business hours and on weekends will be transferred through a menu selection to After-Hours Dispatch.

For more information on the many pool and spa water treatment and filtration options, please consult your local pool or spa supplier.