

“ According to the by-law, filter backwash water should ONLY be directed to the closest sanitary sewer connection on the pool owner’s property.

### Getting to know the By-laws

A responsible swimming pool or spa owner must properly drain their swimming pool or spa in accordance with the City’s Storm Sewer By-law 259-05 and Debris and Littering By-law 219-85, as amended.

The Debris and Anti Littering By-law 219-85, as amended, describes proper practices for the discharge of pool and spa water filter backwash.

A building 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. Contact the City’s Building Division by dialing 3-1-1.

The Storm Sewer By-law 259-05, as amended, states that it is illegal to discharge contaminated water to a storm drain.

” If you discharge (or hire a pool maintenance company to discharge) water that exceeds the Storm Sewer By-law limits, you may be subject to a penalty under the By-law.

### REPORT A SPILL

Pool and spa chemicals can be dangerous to the environment and to individuals. In case of a chemical spill, contact:

- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Spills Action Centre: 1-800-268-6060 (Toll Free)
- Region of Peel 24-Hour Spill Line: 905-791-7800
- City of Mississauga: 3-1-1 or 905-615-4311 if outside city limits

### SAFE DISPOSAL OF POOL AND SPA CHEMICALS

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

- **Battleford Community Recycling Centre**  
2255 Battleford Rd,  
Mississauga L5N 8P6  
Mon-Thu: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Fri: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sat & Sun: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Fewster Community Recycling Centre**  
1126 Fewster Dr,  
Mississauga L4W 2A4  
Mon-Wed: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Thu: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Fri: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sat & Sun: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



# Pool & Spa Water Safe Disposal Practices



Stormwater Management  
- Pollution Prevention



# SAFE POOL AND SPA WATER DISPOSAL PRACTICES

A swimming pool or spa can be a wonderful addition to your backyard oasis. Protecting this investment, as well as the local environment, is as simple as properly managing and disposing of pool water and the chemicals needed to keep the pool water safe for your family.

**AVOID DISCHARGING POOL WATER TO RAVINES OR ANYWHERE THAT WILL IMPACT NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES.**

Chemicals (such as chlorine, bromine and others) are needed for safe pool operation and maintenance. However, they can also harm rivers, plants and animals if they are allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system through roadside catchbasins or drains.

When properly managed and disposed of, your pool water can be a source of enjoyment for your family that poses no danger to the City's creeks and rivers.



## BEST PRACTICES FOR POOL & SPA WATER DRAINAGE

### At Spring Start-up

Remove any debris that has accumulated over the winter. Drain the accumulated melted snow and rainwater on the top of the pool cover all the way to the curb with a hose.

### Closing in the Fall

**For Saltwater Pools:** ONLY discharge water from a saltwater pool or spa into a home sanitary sewer connection like a basement floor drain or sink as it will still contain high levels of sodium chloride or sodium bromide.

**For Chlorine and Bromine treated pools:** Once the swimming season ends, reduce the concentration of chemicals in the pool water. Do not add chlorine and bromine for 7-10 days prior to draining the pool. Remove the cover and expose the pool water to direct sunlight during that time.

Before discharging a chlorine or bromine pool or spa into the storm drain, test the water using test strips, kits or other water testing methods to make sure that the water:

- 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
- is free of debris, vegetation or algae
- has a pH of between 6 and 9
- has a chlorine concentration of no more than 1 ppm (1 mg/L)

**Please make sure to discharge slowly using a hose long enough to reach to the curb and do not discharge within 24 hours of a storm event!**

### Routine Maintenance

Always discharge water from the routine backwashing of pools and filters into the sanitary sewer system as it contains sediment and chemicals. If using a cartridge filter system, place used cartridges in the garbage.



### DISCHARGE TO SANITARY SEWER

The Region of Peel suggests the following pre-conditions for discharge to the sanitary sewer system to prevent flooding of basements and to avoid a penalty:

- Direct the discharge from the pool to your nearest sanitary drain inside your house and monitor closely for any back-up
- Discharge slowly and 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.

*For questions regarding discharge to the sanitary sewer contact the Region of Peel's Environmental Control Section at 905-791-7800.*