

Did you know . . . The difference between a storm drain and a sewer? Storm drains collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to creeks, streams and rivers. Sewers collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers. So remember, only rain should go into storm drains, not trash, oil, or other pollutants.

The City of Owasso's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or storm sewer system was designed to divert excess rainwater to the many creeks and streams found in the City. Because this system connects our streets, driveways and other impervious surfaces directly to our local waterways, it is important for our residents to prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system.

Swimming pool and spa water contains chemicals such as chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides as well as filter media like Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber and sand particles. These pollutants can cause fish kills and destabilize the aquatic wildlife populations.



### **There are three options for draining your swimming pool or spa.**

Whichever option you choose, remember you must **de-chlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

- Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5 to 10 days without adding any chlorine or other chemicals.
- Use a chemical de-chlorination additive: Contact your local pool store for options.
- Use a simple chlorine test kit to verify water is de-chlorinated.

#### Drain pool water to yard or landscaped areas.

- Allow water to soak into the grassy or landscaped areas. This will filter out residual pollutants,
- Don't cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area should be sufficient to prevent yard erosion and sediment runoff into a ditch, creek or storm drain.

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm sewer system after the following conditions are met:

- The pool or spa water is completely **de-chlorinated**.
- Do not discharge acid cleaning wastes, filter media or other pool chemicals.
- Ensure discharged water will not create puddles of standing water. This could provide breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- Drainage hoses **must stay** on your property and drain through your yard to the street. Water allowed to flow onto neighboring properties may cause flooding and property damage.

Drain pool water to the sanitary sewer system.

**DO NOT** drain swimming pool or spa water to your **SEPTIC SYSTEM**. It may cause system failure.

#### Saline Pool (saltwater) disposal options:

- Drain to a vegetated area on the pool owner's property. However discharging saltwater to landscape areas can significantly damage vegetation and soils due to the high salt content.
- Drain to the sanitary sewer system.

**Never** drain a saline pool to the storm sewer system. The high salt content can be damaging to the water quality and the storm sewer infrastructure components.

It is a violation of Owasso Ordinance to discharge any swimming pool or spa chemicals into the storm sewer system.

Contact the Pretreatment & Stormwater Division at 918-376-1519 or 918-376-1552 of the Public Works Department to report a violation.

#### **Do no harm to your neighbor's property, city property or the local water quality.**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Stormwater Runoff**—Rainwater which flows off of impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots and streets through the storm sewer system and into local waterways.

**Storm Sewer**—A series of pipes, catch basins, ditches and inlets which conveys excess stormwater away from streets and into local creeks, streams or other waterbodies.

**Sanitary Sewer Clean out**—A capped pipe which provides access to a sanitary sewer line, allowing people to clean out blockages in their sanitary sewer line.

**Chlorine**—A chemical used as a sanitizing agent for swimming pools and spas.

**Saline (saltwater) pool**—A system which uses regular table salt to produce chlorine to disinfect pool water.

Why is the Wastewater from Swimming Pools a Concern? While a single, residential pool might contribute small quantities of chemical pollutants to a sewer system, collectively the individual residential pools in the City of Owasso, as a whole, can be a significant contributor. It is therefore critical that each and every pool owner, operator, or service contractor take appropriate measures to reduce substances of concern that are discharged into sewers.

Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your pool maintenance service. Be sure you know how your service is disposing of your pool or spa water and the filter backwash. They must follow all discharge requirements set forth by the City.

The Bottom Line: Improper swimming pool maintenance can result in impacts to local creeks, lakes and aquatic life, and may be costly.

An unauthorized discharge is a violation of Owasso City Code. It can also be costly to clean up pollutants from the ground, a storm drain or waterway. So, please help preserve Owasso's valuable water resources by conducting appropriate pool installation and maintenance.

For more information on pools and spas and stormwater pollution prevention contact:

Pretreatment & Stormwater at:  
918-376-1519 or 918-376-1552



## Mission Statement

Public Works is passionate in serving our customers with quality, efficiency and character. In so doing, we strive daily to "remove the obstacles standing in the way of people celebrating their lives."

## Public Works Department Pretreatment & Stormwater Division

918-376-1519

Or

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# Stormwater Management Division

## Protecting Owasso's Waterways



# A Citizen's Guide to Swimming Pools and Spas