

Best Management Practices for Conserving Pool Water

- **Cover the pool when not in use to control evaporation.**

Up to 95% of water loss from evaporation can be saved through the use of a pool cover. For the typical pool, a cover can save an average of 16,000 gallons of water per year.



- **If you have a pool heater, reduce the temperature - particularly when the pool is not in use.**
- **Limit the frequency of pool draining and refilling.**

Only drain and refill pool when required for water quality reasons. NOTE: Drought restrictions may altogether prohibit refilling of a pool without permission of the Director of Public Services. For current water restrictions check the City website or call 972-744-4220.

- **Backwash pool filters only when necessary.**

If the backwash cycle is controlled by a timer, check and adjust the frequency of the cycle to ensure optimal efficiency. Use head loss to determine backwash frequency (8 -10 psi loss). Backwash until the water is clear.

- **Where feasible, use filter backwash for irrigating lawns or plants, or for cooling tower make-up.**
- **Lower the pool's water level as much as possible to reduce the amount of water that can be splashed out.**
- **Check the pool regularly for cracks and leaks and make repairs promptly.**
If water level drops more than 1 inch per day, investigate for problems or leaks.
- **Replace showerheads in outdoor changing areas to low flow fixtures and post signs to encourage pool users to limit the time spent in the shower.**
- **Add a fence, trees or shrubs to provide a windbreak to reduce evaporation.**
- **Utilize a pool vacuum that recycles water when cleaning the pool.**

Remember, while working in and around your pool, be sure safety precautions are taken in regards to the supervision of children. Drowning prevention requires eye-to-eye supervision, working barriers of fences and self-closing, self-latching gates.

Drought restrictions can vary throughout the year, check with the city website for the current restrictions.



City of Richardson Health Department
972-744-4080
www.cor.net

Revised April 2012

DRAIN & BACKWASH POOLS LEGALLY



What's in my pool water and why is it harmful to the creek?



Okay, so maybe you never find a car in your pool but you still have disinfectants and stabilizers that can be very harmful to the critters that live and swim in our creeks. Even water from a pool that has not been treated recently or is stagnant can negatively impact the sensitive balance of an aquatic ecosystem already stressed by drought or other urban pollutants (like fertilizers, leaks from our cars, pet waste). The following guidelines are provided to help pool owners and operators prevent water pollution and protect the watershed they live in.

Backwash

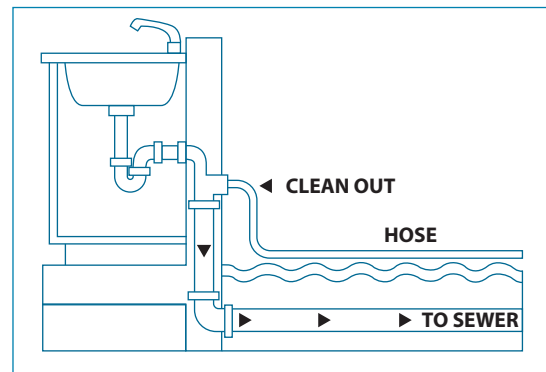
When possible use the backwash water to irrigate your landscaping. Do not drain water into the street, alleyway or other city right-of-way. **Caution:** some pool water contains more salt and chlorine than tap water. Some turf grass and ornamental plants will take this water without much problem. Avoid using on citrus, hibiscus, or other salt sensitive plants. Do not spray directly onto leaves or water the same area repeatedly). Wastewater from washing Cartridge filters can be screened, the water contained/reused on your property and solids bagged and disposed with your trash once allowed to dry thoroughly or drained via an existing p-trap. Filter media from Sand and Diatomaceous Earth filter cleaning/backwash is much finer and may be more difficult to separate. If so these waters should generally be discharged to an

existing indirect drain line to the sanitary sewer. *Temporary drain lines are not a permanent solution to an outdated or improperly plumbed backwash line. Contact Community Services at 972-744-4180 for licensed plumber and permitting requirements to re-route.*

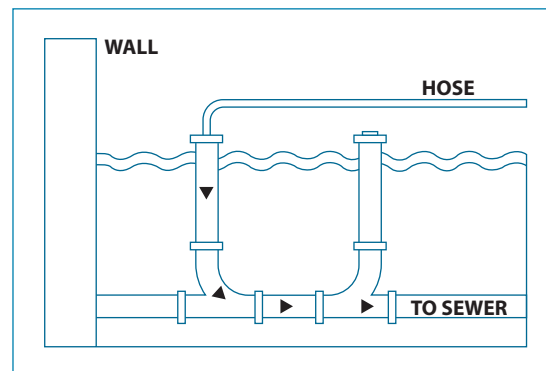
Draining the Pool

When draining large amounts of pool water use the home's sewer clean-out riser for a properly flowing sewer lateral. **Caution:** Some sewer lines previously damaged or clogged by roots may need service first.

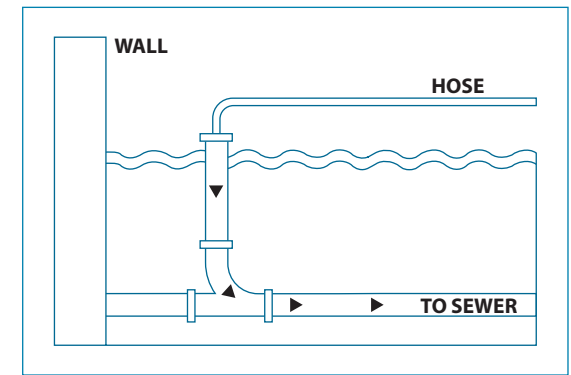
Locate your sewer clean-out – a threaded, usually black cap about 3 or 4 inches in diameter (examples below). If you cannot find the clean-out consult a plumber. You may need to have one installed.



IN WALL TYPE



NEWER HOMES



OLDER HOMES

Caution: Using a wall type clean-out is risky as the potential for water backing up into the home is great. Additionally, most pool filter pumps will discharge too much water too fast and may cause water to back-up into the yard or house. A safer procedure would be to purchase or rent a submersible pump (look for one that operates at about 700 gallons per hour), connect it to a garden hose and slowly empty the pool. The maximum recommended discharge rate is 12 gallons per minute. The safe flow rate may be less, depending on the size of the drain line, distance to the sewer main, and the condition of the pipe.

Richardson's legal requirements

The City of Richardson code of ordinances (RCO), specifically prohibits the discharge of filter backwash water into the storm drain system or any water course and disallows the discharge of chemicals in general (such as pool water disinfectants, stabilizers) to any area that drains to the storm drain system. RCO further prohibits the creation of hazards in any street, sidewalk or alley by any means whatsoever such as discharging water in a quantity as to create flooding, impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and that may also cause damage to such locations; or create hazardous conditions to traffic or create a condition which constitutes a threat to public health or safety. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure their pool maintenance service follows all discharge requirements.