

## What's the problem?

Your backyard swimming pool and spa make life more enjoyable. However, pool and spa water often contain chlorine and bromine as well as other chemicals. These chemicals keep your pool and spa water clean and clear, but can damage the environment. When pools and spas are improperly maintained, drained or discharged, these chemicals can end up reaching our rivers, lakes and streams where they harm aquatic plants and animals.

## You're the solution to water pollution.

Do your part to protect our rivers, lakes and streams by following these tips when draining and caring for your pool and spa.

## The Clean Water Campaign

The Clean Water Campaign is a collaborative multi-agency education and outreach effort coordinated by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for the 15-county Metro Atlanta area. The Clean Water Campaign's mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions.



The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District serves as the water planning organization for the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, which encompasses the following counties and their respective municipalities: Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign

[www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)



# Pollution Prevention Tips for Pools & Spas





## Pool & Spa Maintenance Tips

- ◆ Clean your pool or spa regularly, and maintain proper chlorine levels, water filtration and circulation. You will not have to drain your pool or spa as often if you do.
- ◆ Follow all label instructions precisely when using pool and spa chemicals.
- ◆ Avoid using copper- or silver-based algaecides. Instead, control algae by regulating chlorine levels, using dye additives or a pool cover to block sunlight.
- ◆ Store all pool maintenance chemicals indoors or in a dry, covered area to keep out of contact with rainwater. Always keep out of reach of children.
- ◆ Consider using a professional pool maintenance company to service your pool or spa.
- ◆ Contact your local government to learn more about your community's pool and spa regulations. If you are not sure who to call, the Clean Water Campaign can help. Email us at [info@cleanwatercampaign.com](mailto:info@cleanwatercampaign.com).

## Proper Drainage and Disposal of Pool & Spa Water

- ◆ **Never** drain water from your pool or spa to:
  - » Your driveway, street, nearby storm drain or drainage ditch,
  - » A nearby stream, river, pond or lake,
  - » Your septic system.
- ◆ Contact your wastewater provider to see if pool or spa discharges are allowed to the sanitary sewer system. If discharges are allowed, be sure to follow the procedures identified by your sewer provider.
- ◆ Consider using a pool maintenance company to collect and properly dispose of your pool or spa water.
- ◆ If these options are not possible, you may drain your pool or spa slowly to your lawn or other landscaped area provided that:
  - » Your pool or spa was not treated with copper or silver algaecides.
  - » The water has been dechlorinated / debrominated to 0.1 mg/L (ppm) of chlorine.
  - » The water has been neutralized to a pH between 6.5-8.5.
  - » The water should be clear and free of algae.All water should be discharged slowly enough to allow it to soak into the ground and prevent erosion and runoff to a storm drain, drainage ditch or surface water.
- ◆ Any unauthorized discharges may be subject to local enforcement regulations.

*Note: Draining salt water pools to your lawn or landscaped area may harm your landscaping.*

## Cleaning and Maintaining Filters

- ◆ Always rinse and backwash filters over the lawn or other dirt area, ensuring that nothing drains to paved areas, storm drains, drainage ditches or surface waters. Spade any filter residue into the soil.
- ◆ Diatomaceous earth - a typical pool filtering agent - should be dried out, placed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the trash.

