



# Protect Our Water

Only pool water that is:

- clear
- chemical-free
- salt-free
- between 6.0 and 9.0 pH

may be drained to the storm drain system. This includes backwash water.

Saltwater may not be drained to storm drains or the sanitary sewer. It may only be drained to a landscaped area.

When the pool filter system is cleaned, get rid of solids in the trash or compost.

Store pool chemicals in a dry, covered area to prevent leaks and spills.

Never hose down spills. Sweep up dry chemicals and use absorbents for liquids.

Find more information at:  
[bitly.com/stormhandouts](https://bitly.com/stormhandouts)

See stormwater pollution?  
Call 919-560-SWIM to report it!

## POOL WATER CAN HARM LOCAL CREEKS

Storm drains lead directly to creeks. Water that flows through them is not cleaned. Swimming pool water and filter backwash have chlorine, salts, and other chemicals in them. They can kill animals and plants in Durham's creeks.

It is illegal to put pool water with chemicals into the storm drain system. This includes ditches leading to waterways. Backwash water and saltwater are not allowed in the storm drain system either. If you do this, you may get a fine.



## THE RIGHT WAY TO DRAIN A POOL

In order to follow federal, state, and local regulations, you must do these things before draining pool water:

1. Remove all solids from the water
2. Let the water sit for a week and/or until the pH of the water is between 6.0 and 9.0
3. The chlorine residual in the water must be less than 0.017 mg/L
4. Drain water to a landscaped area
5. Drain water slowly to minimize soil erosion



# Cities like Durham are required by law to monitor stormwater and stop pollution sources

This federal permit is called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES permit. It requires the City to have a program to keep stormwater as clean as possible. It helps protect local water used for drinking, fishing, and swimming.

Durham was issued its first NPDES permit in 1995. The Water Quality unit of Public Works carries out many parts of the City's stormwater management program.

## CONTACT US

StormWaterQuality@DurhamNC.gov  
919-560-SWIM  
DurhamNC.gov/Stormwater  
Follow us @DurhamStormH2O

City of Durham  
Public Works Department  
Stormwater & GIS Services  
101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, NC 27701



# BEST PRACTICES FOR POOL MAINTENANCE

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STORMWATER POLLUTION  
PREVENTION

