

# Storm Sewer System and the Environment

The storm sewer system in Keller drains directly to a natural waterway. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Chemicals, trash, and other materials can change water quality, disrupt habitat, or kill wildlife. Please keep this in mind when considering what you are discharging to the environment.



Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals used in pool maintenance are toxic to fish and other aquatic wildlife. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill the spaces in the stream bed gravel. This prevents oxygen from reaching fish eggs and small aquatic wildlife. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

## Know the Law

City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19, Articles VI and XV, prohibit discharges that adversely affect the stormwater quality. It is a violation of Article VI to discharge filter backwash from swimming pools and fountains to the storm sewer system. Article XV prohibits a discharge of swimming pool water containing chlorine greater than 1.0 ppm. Violation of both ordinances can result in code enforcement action, including issuance of fines.

Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your pool maintenance service. Ensure you know your service maintenance company's operational procedures.



**CITY OF KELLER**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

1100 BEAR CREEK PKWY  
P.O. BOX 770  
KELLER, TX 76244

Phone: 817-743-4080

Fax: 817-743-4091

E-mail: [publicworks@cityofkeller.com](mailto:publicworks@cityofkeller.com)

When you need to  
**Drain**  
the  
**Swimming**  
**Pool or**  
**Spa**

Reduce  
Your  
**Impact**  
on the  
**Environment**

**A guide to draining the  
swimming pool in the  
City of Keller**

# Draining the Swimming Pool Wisely

Swimming pool water may occasionally need to be drained to address chemical and/or repair issues. You may be able to only partially drain the water to correct the problem. Consult with a pool professional first. Because many older pools were designed to drain to the street, some preparation is required. Using a sump pump connected to a hose, the discharge options below help reduce impacts on the environment.




You do not need permission to refill a pool. Please note, utility billing does not apply discounts on pool fill consumption.

## Option 1: The Sanitary Sewer \*Preferred Method

Some pools have been designed with a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer. If your pool does not have a drain line, follow these steps:

- Call the sewer department to discuss the discharge. A pool discharge may cause some lines to overflow, thus this option may not be available to all residents.
- Check chemical levels to prevent damage to the system. Chlorine should not exceed 1.0 ppm and pH should be between 6 and 8.
- Use the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property. A plumber or the City Wastewater Department can assist in finding the cleanout. If the cleanout is not available or too far away, consider using a plumbing fixture (but not the toilet) in the house.
- Reduce the pumping rate to no more than 50 gpm. Carefully monitor the flow and fixtures around the house for signs of a backup.
- **CAUTION:** Never drain the swimming pool to a septic system as it may cause a system failure.



Please call the Public Works Department at 817-743-4200 before draining the swimming pool into the sewer.

## Option 2: Your Lawn

This option does not apply to salt water treated pools as it may damage grass and plants. Salt water pools and spas must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

Things you should do before discharging the pool water to the lawn:

- Notify the City of Keller Environmental Services by calling 817-743-4092 of the date you plan on draining the swimming pool.
- Dechlorinate the pool water to less than 1.0 ppm:
  - Simply stop adding chlorine to the uncovered pool and wait. Sunlight will naturally dissipate the chlorine within approximately 10 days.
  - Chemically dechlorinate the pool water. Pool and spa care vendors provide chemicals that will quickly remove chlorine and/or chloramines.
- Adjust the pH, if needed. The pH should be between 6 and 8.
- Remove vegetation, algae, debris, or other pollutants from the water.
- To drain the pool, place a sump pump in the deepest part of the pool and direct the end of the hose to any part of the yard that can allow the water to percolate through.
  - Take care to not flood a neighbor's yard. The water must stay within your property limits. Check the flow often. Move the hose when an area becomes saturated.
  - Watch for erosion. Move the hose or reduce the pumping rate if needed.
  - If your property becomes saturated and cannot absorb more water, let the water run off the property across a grassy area before entering the storm sewer system. More chemicals can be filtered out or dissipated by allowing the water to flow across the grass.